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LD0306124988 [Editorial Report]

Iran

'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's tasks as acting commander in chief of the armed forces include the formation of a general command headquarters pending the establishment of "complete unity" between the different branches of the Armed Forces.

This is the first of seven duties entrusted to the Majlis speaker by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in a decree broadcast by Tehran radio. The duties include promoting "full coordination" among the regular forces, the IRGC, the Mobilization (Basij) forces, and other units, as well as closing down or amalgamating organizations that are "not essential" or are duplicating each other's activities.

The radio also broadcast President 'Ali Khamene'i's letter to Khomeyni proposing that a single person take charge of all branches of the armed forces and nominating Hashemi-Rafsanjani as "the only suitable person" for the job.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani subsequently affirmed his intention to continue the war until all the "pre-determined targets" set by Khomeyni are accomplished, according to IRNA.

Iran will sustain "major losses" if it backs down in the war, he warned, and failure to maintain and consolidate the "people's presence" at the battlefronts will result in "weakness."

The agency also cited his statement at a Friday prayers meeting that Iranians should take the military situation "more seriously," and that Iran's position on the war is "no compromise, no submission, and no backing down from our rights."

Commenting on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's new appointment, Tehran radio noted that "an acute need was felt in these sensitive conditions to make more and much better use of our forces and resources."

It is hoped that this "transfer of power" will be the beginning of "major developments" on the battlefield, the radio added. In a Tehran television interview, IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust likewise expressed the hope that the new "unity of command" will have good results for Iran, and he stressed the need to strengthen Iranian defenses and start fresh attacks "soon."

Asked to explain the reasons for Iran's recent reverses in Al-Faw and Shalamcheh, Rafiqdust acknowledged that Iran "did not have many forces" in these areas, adding that "we consider ourselves guilty." Iran should lose no time in sending more forces to the fronts to "compensate" for what has happened, he said.

IRGC spokesman 'Ali Reza Afshar likewise told the television that Basij units should increase the length of their service at the fronts to strengthen the quantity and quality of Iranian forces.

Iranian sources in Paris cited by AFP disclosed that police recently arrested a dozen leading members of Iranian opposition groups, including former officials Hashem Sabaghian, Mohammad Tavasoli, 'Ali Ardalan, and Hoseyn Shah Hoseyni.

Police reportedly searched unsuccessfully for former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, who has written an open letter castigating Ayatollah Khomeyni for persisting in continuing the war with Iraq.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil has informed the U.S. ambassador that a shooting incident involving the latter's motorcade is being "dealt with," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

A Voice of Lebanon radio report on the incident noted that a car in the ambassador's motorcade was hit by gunfire while traveling through suburbs of East Beirut to Antilyas.

The ambassador's escorts had opened fire to facilitate the motorcade's passage, the radio said, and a local security force fired back, unaware of the reasons for the shooting.

Israel

An Arab youth was shot dead near Hebron 3 June, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that Arab sources said he was killed by Israeli civilians.

Syria-USSR

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze during a stopover in Moscow on his return from Japan, Damascus radio reported, adding that their talks highlighted the "identity of the two countries' viewpoints" on the Mideast situation.

TASS said Shevardnadze welcomed the resumption of dialogue between Syria and the PLO, and he called for closer Syrian-Palestinian interaction.

Libya

Relations With PLO—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli 2 June at the start of another visit to the Jamahiriyah, Tripoli television reported.

A TANJUG report on PLO-Libyan relations stated that Libya has opposed proposals by the PLO to expand the agenda of the upcoming Arab summit conference by raising the issue of a Middle East peace conference.

Relations With Egypt—"There is no mediation" between Libya and Egypt, and the present Egyptian regime has done nothing that could allow Libya to reconsider its relations with it, JANA declared in response to an article by Cairo's AL-AKHBAR.

JANA was reacting to AL-AKHBAR'S claim that Libya secretly asked the YAR and UAE to mediate between the two countries, but then dashed any hope of success by publicly proclaiming its rejection of any negotiations with Egypt. JANA accused the paper of using its "imagination" to conjure up a story about "phantom" mediation.

Relations With Tunisia—Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi arrived in Tunisia carrying a message to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Tunis radio noted.

Sudan

The official government spokesman welcomed an announcement by SPLA leader John Garang declaring his readiness to negotiate without preconditions, SUNA reported. The spokesman urged Garang to convey his initiative to the government through official channels.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on 'Uprising,' U.S. Initiative

JN0306074488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2046 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Jun (WAKH) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his optimism on the present situation of the Arab nation. He said that there are three important things in the Arab arena: the strong Palestinian stand represented by the steadfastness of the uprising in the face of the Zionist invaders, the most recent Iraqi victory, and Saudi Arabia's possession of long-range missiles.

In an interview with UAE television broadcast in Abu Dhabi tonight, 'Arafat emphasized that the Arabs only need the means to deal with the new facts in the Arab arena.

Replying to a question on how he views the future of the Palestinian people's uprising, 'Arafat said:

On the day the emergency Arab summit convenes, the uprising will enter its 7th month. It is now in the third stage. It has three stages left: general strike, partial civil disobedience, and total civil disobedience.

The Palestinian leader refused to specify the nature of the seventh and last stage in the development of the uprising, saying he will leave it as a surprise for the Arab nation.

'Arafat gave an example of the success of the Palestinian uprising and the radical changes it has caused in the Zionist reality, as admitted by the enemy leaders themselves. He said the Israelis have admitted more than once that they are facing a war they are not familiar with.

He said the Israeli chief of staff has admitted in one of his lectures that since 1982 the Israelis have fought three Israeli-Palestinian wars, the first was their invasion of Lebanon, the second the war of attrition in southern Lebanon, and the third now inside the occupied homeland, which is what the Israelis call the uprising war.

The Palestinian leader talked about the U.S. stand on the Palestine question and the Shultz initiative, saying the U.S. secretary of state is going around in a vicious circle. His sole purpose is to protect Israel from the earthquake caused by the uprising and the steadfastness in southern Lebanon.

'Arafat clarified that the U.S. secretary of state is seeking a solution in which he will exclude the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative, the PLO.

Therefore, he will not succeed in his plan because it contradicts UN resolutions, which recognize the rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on their national soil.

'Arafat praised the Soviet stand on the Palestine question and said that Soviet leader Gorbachev defended the Palestine question before Reagan and stressed the necessity of recognizing the security of all parties in the Middle East, including the Palestinian people, and not the security of one party at the expense of another.

Khalid al-Hasan on Ties With Syria, Arab Summit

JN0206190688 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 1 Jun 88 p 15

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis — Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, has said that efforts are still being exerted to continue the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue. He said the normalization of relations between the two sides will take a long time.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, Al-Hasan said Algeria and Libya are continuing their good offices on this subject. The visit of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Libya, which ended yesterday, came within this context.

'Arafat discussed with President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the suitable means to develop these relations before the convening of the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers on 7 June.

The Palestinian official added that the PLO prefers to go to the summit after its relations with Syria have been ironed out and the latest Palestinian camps war has ended.

He pointed out that 'Arafat might have asked the Libyan president to intercede with his opponents, the Fatah dissident group led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], to stop its shelling of Beirut camps from the mountain.

Regarding his expectations of the Arab summit, Khalid al-Hasan said he is worried because it will be held after the summit of the giants, the USSR and the United States.

He recalled that the second Fes summit was held after President Reagan's initiative. He said that any subsequent decision will either be objection to or acceptance of what has been offered.

Al-Hasan continued by saying he does not think the Palestinian question will be solved soon. The more realistic solution will be to calm things down without destroying the roots of the problem.

This may reflect on the coming Arab summit, which will be faced with a real challenge to show the extent and strength of Arab capability.

He described the coming Arab summit conference as "the most important Arab conference, not because it will discuss the conditions of the popular uprising in the Palestinian occupied territories, but because it will face what has been agreed upon between the two superpowers. If this agreement is contrary to the basis of previous Arab summit conferences, the Arab nation will be facing a serious challenge. If the two giants have not reached an agreement, then we will have to wait for attempts to cancel the PLO."

The Palestinian official expected that during his next tour, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will offer what he called a bribe to destroy the PLO.

PLO Radio Says Shultz Lends 'Deaf Ear' to Arabs
JN0206200488 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1741 GMT 2 Jun 88

["A Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "There is No Other Choice"]

[Text] Mr George Shultz will come to the region to persuade the Arab capitals to exert pressure on the PLO to make it accept his so-called Middle East peace plan.

U.S. envoy Vernon Walters visited 10 Arab capitals to persuade them to play a similar role. The Arab capitals have asked Mr Shultz to postpone his fourth tour of the region until after the Arab summit so he can be provided when he comes with a unified and documented Arab stand that delineates the minimum Arab demands regarding all that pertains to the issue of a settlement.

However, Shultz has lent a deaf ear to all this. He is determined to make the visit right now and before the summit convenes so he can exert pressure, not only on the Palestinians, but also on all Arabs and specifically on the summiteers.

This is because the issuance of an Arab document from an Arab summit devoted to a discussion of the Palestinian uprising would put obstacles in his way during his tour of the region.

Thus, any pressure he might seek to exert would be useless, considering that the Arab capitals would be made incapable of favorably responding to these pressures because of their inability to make concessions about the minimum Arab demands formulated by the summit. Consequently, Shultz' tour would be a useless and meaningless one serving no purpose.

It is worth recalling that all U.S. efforts and endeavors and all tours made by U.S. envoys and officials seek to achieve nothing other than extricating concessions from the Palestinian and Arab parties.

This is taking place at a time when no U.S. demands are made upon Israel, despite its aggressiveness, its arrogance, and its illogical and insane violations of borders and rights, to make any concessions or to ponder the issue of making any concessions. The Americans implement their policies, stands, and plans, displaying total indifference to others' demands and stands.

Let us ask a specific question: What do the Americans want from us as Arabs and Palestinians? We would not be exaggerating when we say the Americans unequivocally and clearly reject our independent existence.

They reject our independent Palestinian existence inasmuch as they reject our independent Arab existence. They reject any formula that excludes the existence of Israeli hegemony as the basic factor in the Middle East region, contending that they trust nobody other than this hegemony and nothing other than this colonial, settler, and expansionist authority.

Hence, the Palestinians and the Arabs, especially their esteemed summiteers, have no choice but to break this rejection. The choice is very clear. It is between an acceptance of absolute subservience or breaking the U.S. rejection of the Arab and Palestinian independence. There is no other choice.

PLO Radio on 'Settling of Scores' With Amal
JN0206194488 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1642 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Commentary: "Will the Amal Movement Stop?"]

[Text] Brothers: What does the Amal Movement want? What do those behind Amal Movement want? What does the alliance between the Amal Movement and those who strayed in 1982, and who continued their deviation against their people and their great historic leadership and against their people's heroic uprising, want? What does this alliance, between the quagmires and those who cannot live without quagmires, want?

The day before yesterday, there was heavy shelling against Burj al-Barajinah camp. Yesterday, there were deportations, demolition of houses, and the confiscation of properties in the refugee camps of (Jull al-Bahr), Shabriha, and Al-Qasimiyah in southern Lebanon.

What next? Do they think the Palestinian wall is very low? Do they think the Palestinian arm is very short? What does Amal Movement and those behind it want?

We think that what has happened is enough. They should learn before the Palestinian sacred curse hits them. They should learn because Palestinian patience has its limits and Palestinian anger has no limits.

Each side should know its limits and stop at that limit. Else, the Palestinians have a sanctity granted to them by God and their curse stems from God's curse. Will the Amal Movement stop? We hope so, otherwise there should be a settling of scores and punishment, either now or in the future.

OPEC Affairs

8 Jun Ministerial Meeting Postponed to 11 Jun

LD0206163088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1455 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Vienna, June 2 (KUNA)—A secretariat of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) announced here Thursday that the OPEC ministerial meeting scheduled for June 8 will be postponed till June 11.

An OPEC official spokesman told KUNA that the decision to delay the ministerial meeting was due to the timing of the extraordinary Arab summit conference, due to be held in Algiers June 7.

The OPEC regular ministerial meeting was originally scheduled for June 8 to discuss OPEC share in the international oil market and the quotas of production for member states during the second half of this year.

The conference is also expected to discuss (?cooperation) with the non-OPEC oil producers in the field of output and (?prices).

Algeria

President Bendjedid Receives Iran's Besharati

LD0106232588 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, has received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati at the presidential palace.

During the meeting, the president was given a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

The meeting took place in the presence of Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs, and Mr Ismail Hemdani, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

Talks Held 1 Jun

LD0206123888 Tehran IRNA in English 0500 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Algiers, June 2, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in a meeting here with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid Wednesday evening handed him a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i. Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi was also present at the meeting.

Besharati arrived here Wednesday evening at the head of a delegation.

Besharati described as significant the upcoming emergency Arab summit meet in Algiers but regretted that the Amman summit had not fulfilled its grave responsibilities vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue and regarded the Zionist danger as a marginal one. He said the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories was the best answer to the Amman summit.

More on the Palestinian issue he said under the present circumstances it is in need of practical and decisive support and that the Muslim nations expect the forthcoming Algiers summit to back the Palestinians.

"Naturally raising of other issues would overshadow the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people," Besharati stressed.

On the Iraqi-imposed war he said the main issue is materialisation of justice, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not forego its rightful conditions for a just end to the war which he said include identification and punishment of the aggressor.

The Algerian president stressed that the objective behind holding the extraordinary Arab summit was to reiterate support for the uprising of the Palestinians. Bendjedid expressed hope that Arab leaders will politically and financially back the Palestinian movement.

Expressing regrets over the Iraq-Iran war Bendjedid hoped that a just solution would terminate the conflict.

The oil market situation was also raised in the meeting and both sides stressed the need for greater cooperation between the two countries to defend oil prices within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Chad

Cabinet Hails OAU Position on Libya Conflict

AB0106203488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] Today, the head of state presided over an extraordinary cabinet meeting which included the members of the Bureau of the National Consultative Council and the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] Executive Bureau.

Without further ado, here are the minutes of this extraordinary cabinet meeting read by the government spokesman, Information Minister Adoum Moussa Seif.

[Begin recording] Here are the minutes of the cabinet meeting. The extraordinary cabinet meeting, which included the members of the Bureau of the National Consultative Council and the UNIR Executive Bureau, was held today under the chairmanship of His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic, head of state, and founding chairman of UNIR.

The cabinet examined the deliberations of the 24th OAU summit on the Chad-Libya dispute. After a thorough examination of the various factors involved in the deliberations, the cabinet hereby informs the national and international public that the Government of the Republic of Chad is satisfied with the deliberations of the 24th OAU summit, which constitute an important step in the search for a peaceful solution to the Chad-Libya dispute.

Being respectful of the principles of the OAU Charter relating to the peaceful settlement of conflicts, and aware of the fact that war is not beneficial to the martyred Chadian people nor the brotherly Libyan people, the Chadian Government firmly reiterates its constant support for this approach to restoring a just and durable peace in the subregion.

The Chadian Government reaffirms its confidence in the OAU and the ad hoc committee concerning the implementation of the resolutions made during the 24th OAU summit.

The government commits itself, as it has always done, to give its sincerest and total cooperation in the search for a genuine peace with Libya based especially on respect for the principle of inviolability of borders inherited from the colonial era and that of noninterference in the internal affairs of states.

Consequently, the government once more states that it favors a meeting between the two heads of state and the normalization of relations between Chad and Libya, which, geographically and historically, are destined to coexist peacefully as states, nations, and peoples.

Finally the government calls on the Chadian people to remain mobilized and vigilant so as to foil any destabilizing maneuver from within or without.

Issued in Ndjamena on 1 June 1988. [end recording]

Mauritanian President Stops Over, Comments
AB2805101588 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 28 May 88

[Excerpts] Mauritanian President Maaouya Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya made a technical stopover in Ndjamena yesterday, accompanied by his minister of foreign affairs, Major Mohamed Lemine Ould Ndiayane, and his permanent undersecretary, Dr Moulaye Ould Hieda.

He was welcomed on arrival by Minister of State Dono Ngardoum Djidingar, acting president, and by many other Chadian dignitaries. The Mauritanian head of state and our minister of state held long talks lasting about 1 hour in the presidential lounge of Ndjamena International Airport.

After the talks, the Mauritanian head of state was interviewed by the Chadian press. Let us listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Ould Taya] I would first like to thank you for the reception given me on my first stopover on my way to the Addis Ababa summit, and today. Our organization is doing well and has bright prospects.

The balance-sheet of its achievements on the 25th anniversary of its creation was positive. The OAU has made a considerable contribution to the unity of African peoples and states.

Better still, it has contributed to the liberation of many other peoples who have been under the colonial yoke. It is now struggling to eradicate the obnoxious apartheid system, an extremely important task.

For the past 2 years, it has addressed itself to finding solutions to minimize the economic problems facing our countries. Let us hope that our organization and our countries will find appropriate ways to solve these. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr President, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has just made a number of proposals aimed at improving relations with Chad. How does Mauritania see these proposals?

[Ould Taya] Well, we are very attentive to these proposals and hope that Chad and Libya will rapidly become reconciled because they are two brotherly countries with a common history and the same future.

I was personally satisfied with these proposals and [words indistinct] I hope that they will be translated into facts in the very near future by both sides.

[Reporter] Mr President, do you think the ad hoc committee has successfully carried out the mission assigned to it?

[Ould Taya] I believe that the OAU ad hoc committee under the chairmanship of President Omar Bongo has made considerable efforts to restore and maintain peace in that region and to reconcile the two sides. I think that the committee has done efficient work without much fanfare. [end recording]

Ethiopian Airlines Begins Service to Ndjamena
AB0206073088 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The first Ethiopian Airlines flight landed today at the Ndjamena international airport at 1455. On board the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 727 was the vice president of the company (Wolde Gabriel Teshari) who was welcomed on arrival by the representative of the minister of transport and civil aviation, Director General (Guiribadaye Maguirinbaye) who was accompanied by the mayor of Ndjamena, (Bathiam Abdoulaye); the first deputy mayor (Abba Tchegue Kacem); the director of ASECNA [Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar], Dr (Drikiss); and representatives of Air Afrique [word indistinct].

The Ethiopian Airlines inaugural flight is the result of the agreement signed on 4 January between the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of Chad.

In a welcoming address, the director general of transport and civil aviation emphasized the leading place Ndjamena has in the African network. Our African airlines are, to an extent, coming out of the conventional north-south axis to promote the development of west-east routes, Mr (Guiribadaye Maguirinbaye) stated. [passage omitted]

Responding to his statements, Mr (Wolde Gabriel Teshari), the vice president of Ethiopian Airlines, pointed out that the event was important in the history of the two countries.

He added that the air service between Addis Ababa and Ndjamena marks the determination of the Chadian and Ethiopian peoples and governments to promote the social, political, and economic development of their countries.

He promised that the Ethiopian company will do its best to strengthen ties between the two brotherly countries.

Egypt

AL-AKHBAR Reviews Mediation Efforts With Libya

JN0306072788 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
1 Jun 88 pp 1, 4

[By Sa'id Sunbul]

[Text] The Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison (the Foreign Ministry) has issued a statement denouncing Arab and world media reports on mediation between Egypt and Libya to improve relations between the two countries.

The Libyan statement asserted that an improvement in relations with the Egyptian regime would mean the shedding in vain of Arab as well as Egyptian blood.

The statement came as a surprise to observers and diplomats, as well as to the various Arab circles which Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had earlier approached requesting their mediation between Egypt and Libya.

They began to ask: Why is the Libyan ruler calling for mediation with Egypt secretly and denouncing this mediation publicly?

The recent Libyan statement came in the wake of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's attempt to mediate between Egypt and Libya, following President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to Sanaa.

The Yemeni president told President Mubarak that 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison [title as published], had recently arrived in Sanaa as Col al-Qadhdhafi's envoy.

He complained about Egypt's refusal to improve relations with Libya and requested YAR mediation on this issue.

President Mubarak expressed doubts about Al-Qadhdhafi's intentions, asserting to the Yemeni president that all Egypt was asking was the establishment of good-neighborly relations with Libya.

The president added that Egypt's relationship with the Libyan people is one of brotherhood and amity despite the colonel's attempts to mar and harm this relationship.

The Yemeni president presented a working paper which could be viewed as a basis for Egyptian-Libyan negotiations and which included a number of suggestions for improving relations between the two countries. The Egyptian president agreed to the Yemeni president's request.

President Mubarak left for Addis Ababa and Sanaa began contacts with both Cairo and Tripoli to discuss the proposed working paper and to negotiate the points involved.

All of a sudden, the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison issued a statement the day before yesterday denouncing media reports about mediation between Egypt and Libya, thus torpedoing President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's mediation efforts. This came as a surprise for Sanaa, but not for Cairo.

This was not the first or only attempt to mediate between Egypt and Libya. It was preceded by several unsuccessful attempts, the latest of which was that undertaken by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who contacted President Husni Mubarak by telephone on the last few days of the month of Ramadan and told him that Al-Qadhdhafi had sent him a Libyan envoy who complained about Egypt's rejection of Al-Qadhdhafi's initiative to open the borders and improve relations and said that Al-Qadhdhafi had requested Shaykh Zayid's mediation.

Shaykh Zayid told President Mubarak that he and Al-Qadhdhafi had agreed to send UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah [title as published] to Cairo and Tripoli for mediation between the two countries.

The UAE foreign minister came to Cairo and met with President Mubarak in the presence of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Dr Usamah al-Baz. The UAE foreign minister cited Al-Qadhdhafi as saying in a recent speech that he had decided to withdraw Libyan forces from the eastern border with Egypt and allow Libyans and Egyptians to travel without visas.

The UAE foreign minister said Al-Qadhdhafi thought that Egypt would respond to his initiative and hasten to withdraw its forces from the western border, open the border with Libya, and allow Libyans and Egyptians to travel without visas, but Egypt rejected the initiative.

President Mubarak's reply to all these points was that Libya has no forces stationed on the Egyptian borders, Egypt has no forces on the Libyan borders, and all military men know this.

As for opening the borders between the two countries without any controls, Egypt has reservations on this and believes that the matter is not as simple as it seems, particularly since Al-Qadhdhafi's record is full of conspiracies and sabotage.

Thus, Egypt needs some time to regain confidence in Libyan behavior. President Mubarak said: We can start with the suspension of media campaigns and allow foreign airlines to resume flights between Cairo and Tripoli as a first step that will be followed by another step, that of the resumption of national flights instead of the current flights via Athens or Malta. As for the reopening of the broders and the overland route, this step can take place later, after we have been reassured about the colonel's intentions.

Cairo clearly and frankly explained its viewpoint on Egyptian-Libyan relations to the UAE foreign minister.

At the end of the meeting, President Mubarak shook hands with Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah and told him with a smile: God help you.

The UAE foreign minister left Cairo for Tripoli and asked to meet the colonel. He was told: The colonel is in a retreat and he receives no one these days.

This answer came as a big surprise to Shaykh Zayid's envoy, who asked in a diplomatic manner: I come from Cairo and have specific proposals for mediation with Tripoli. With whom shall I discuss them? They told him: With no one!

The man returned to Cairo and asked to meet President Mubarak. He told him: Your Excellency, you were more farsighted than all of us. President Mubarak laughed and did not comment.

The UAE press reported that Shaykh Zayid had initiated mediation between Egypt and Libya. It also extensively covered the departure of the UAE foreign minister. This forced the UAE Foreign Ministry to issue a succinct statement referring to Shaykh Zayid's efforts and his attempts to clear the Arab atmosphere. All diplomats deduced from the statement that these efforts had failed.

Matters could have ended here. However, the colonel's news agency disseminated a statement following the UAE foreign minister's departure in which it attacked Egypt. It said: Libya's stand is firm and will not change; Libya refuses to negotiate with the Egyptian regime.

Some Arab capitals were astonished at this statement. But, Cairo received it with laughter and ridicule because it expected such a statement to be issued.

This is the real story of recent Arab mediations to improve Egyptian-Libyan relations.

The following question arises. Why does Al-Qadhdhafi secretly ask to negotiate with Egypt, then issue statements rejecting these negotiations in public?

It is evident that the goal of Al-Qadhdhafi's farces is to convince the Libyan people of his desire to improve relations with Egypt while Egypt is the one refusing to improve relations with him.

May God come to the assistance of the fraternal Libyan people, whose potential and resources have been squandered.

Mubarak Cited on Relations with Soviets, Libya

NC2805100488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has urged the Palestinians to unite their ranks to attain the desired solution, stressing that such unity is required now to close existing gaps.

In an interview with the Egyptian paper AL-MASA', published today, President Mubarak stressed that Egypt's relations with all Arab countries are excellent, with the exception of two or three of them. He said: However, no one can hold us responsible for this.

Regarding Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Mubarak said: There is not the least dispute between us and the Libyan people, and we only want good-neighborliness from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

As to Syria, he said that the regime there is seeking only its personal interests.

Referring to Egypt's foreign policy, President Mubarak said: The Soviets deal with us with great respect. He noted that the Soviet Union is sincerely interested in developing its relations with Egypt.

Regarding the Soviet Union's stand on the Middle East issue, President Mubarak said that the Soviets had clearly told Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during his recent visit to Moscow that they agree to what the Arabs agree on and that they find both positive and negative aspects in the Shultz peace initiative and are encouraging the positive ones and trying to tackle the negative ones by continuing the dialogue. The president stressed that Egypt balances its relations with Moscow and Washington.

Regarding his visit to Addis Ababa to attend the celebrations marking the OAU's 25th anniversary and participate in the African summit, President Mubarak said that this visit boosted Egypt's standing with both the East and the West. He expressed his belief that this in itself is a gain of extreme importance. He also hailed Africa's support for Egypt in all its crises.

President Mubarak dealt with a number of domestic issues. He stressed the state's desire to safeguard the relationship between investors and capital investment companies, noting that the government has felt duty bound to protect the interests of both sides and has decided to regulate this relationship and achieve justice for all parties.

On the issue of increasing the salaries of government and public sector employees, President Mubarak said that the government thought it wise to make this increase gradually to increase prices and give each employee the

opportunity to increase his productivity. The president underlined the state's desire to safeguard the interests of its citizens, including its employees.

Ghali To Visit Moscow in July, Meet With Gromyko
NC0206144588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will visit the Soviet Union during the second half of July in his capacity as chairman of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society.

This was stated by Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev, who noted that Ghali will hold talks with Andrey Gromyko, Jr, in his capacity as head of the African Institute in the Soviet Union.

Also, the Soviet ambassador will hold a news conference on Saturday at which he will review the outcome of the U.S.-Soviet summit talks.

Reagan Message on Border Demarcation Received
NC0206115188 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Jun pp 1, 9

[By Amin Radwan]

[Text] Cairo—U.S. President Ronald Reagan sent a message to the Egyptian leadership 2 days before embarking on his visit to Moscow containing a proposal for the demarcation of the borders between Israel and the Arab states.

In the message, the contents of which Washington stressed should not be leaked, the U.S. Administration expresses its desire to sound out Egypt's opinion on the possibility of having a joint Egyptian-Jordanian-Israeli committee of experts—which Syrian experts would be allowed to join in the future—to draw up an agreement for the demarcation of the borders between Israel and the Arab states that are party to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The agreement of these experts should ensure that a suitable formula is found for defining, confirming, and declaring Israel's borders with Egypt, Jordan, and probably Syria, if Syria agrees to the proposal.

In his message, Reagan asks Cairo to participate in the efforts by sounding out Jordan's opinion on signing an agreement reached by the experts.

In his message, to which the Egyptian leadership has not yet responded, Reagan suggests that in accordance with the proposed agreements, it would be possible to draw a distinction between Israel and "a Palestinian state" that might be established in the future on parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In another development, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent a message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak last weekend in which he said that the Israeli Government will not accept the implementation of the verdict of the International Court of Justice on the Tabah issue if the verdict is in Egypt's favor.

Shamir added that his government, by doing so, "does not violate the peace frameworks that are in force between Israel and Egypt."

He said that it is the Egyptian Government that "has abrogated de facto the peace agreements that are in force with Israel. Consequently, these agreements have become mere theoretical de jure frameworks."

He pointed out that Israel is now prepared to change this decision not to implement the verdict of the International Court of Justice if the Egyptian Government adopts actual measures to normalize relations between the two states.

In his message, Shamir declared his readiness to meet with Mubarak in any European capital of his choice to discuss "the friendly basis" for resolving the Tabah problem.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports in Cairo said that Shamir will arrive in the Egyptian capital during the first half of August at the head of a delegation of four ministers, not including Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Sources have said that the U.S. State Department has received the Egyptian president's agreement to receive Shamir in Cairo in early August and that U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in a telephone conversation, appealed to Mubarak to accept Shamir's request to visit Egypt, hoping that this visit will provide momentum to the Middle East peace process and expressing his readiness to visit Cairo at the same time as the Israeli Prime Minister, in order to achieve progress in the peace process in the region.

The same sources added that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, during his visit to Egypt this coming Friday, will seek to settle the Egyptian-Israeli disputes and to convince Mubarak to hold a summit meeting with Shamir.

The sources noted that the current U.S. Administration seeks to achieve this step before the end of Reagan's term of office in January, with a view to bolstering the U.S. settlement plan in the region and overcoming Israel's rejection of this plan.

AL-AHRAM Discusses Economic Performance Report

JN3105112088 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 May 88 p 1

[Text] During its session this week, the Council of Ministers will discuss the final report on economic performance during the first 9 months of the first year, 1987-1988, of the second 5-year plan which began last July.

An AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that the token investments that have already been made during this period totaled 6,176 million pounds, including 4,184 million pounds worth of public sector investment, and 1,992 million pounds for the private sector.

The investments that have already been made during the 9 months represent 72 percent of the target investments for the whole year. Also, 66 percent of the investments that have already been made were spent on machine equipment required for industry and agriculture.

Foreign dealings have also resulted in a reduction of the deficit in the current balance of payments to 894 million pounds compared with 2,300 million pounds during the same period last year, due to corrective programs and the banking market.

The deficit in the trade balance is expected to reach 7.8 billion pounds compared with 5 billion during the same period last year. This is in light of the assessment of the total exports of cotton, rice, and oil in accordance with the banking market's prices.

The data of the performance follow-up report indicates an increase of 1,004 million pounds in the output of commodity exports, which is 38.8 percent compared with the same period last year.

This increase included a clear development in the output of industrial exports, which reached 1,536 million pounds compared with 982 million pounds during the same period last year.

This means an increase of 553 million pounds, which is approximately half the total increase in the output of commodity exports.

The remittances of Egyptians working abroad totaled 4,940 million pounds compared with 2,799 million pounds for the same period last year. This means a 76.5 percent increase.

Despite fluctuations in the exchange rates, there were positive changes in the structure of these remittances. Cash remittances totaled 2,526 million pounds compared with 465 million pounds during the same period last year.

This means that during this period, the banking market attracted 2,061 million pounds which circulated through illegal channels.

An AL-AHRAM correspondent has also learned that the Ministry of Planning has completed the new year plan, 1988-1989, and that it will be discussed by the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council next week.

The new plan is based on the same philosophy on which the second 5-year plan was based and which was approved by the People's Assembly, particularly regarding self-reliance, reduction of foreign dependence, developing a unified public sector, and affirming the role of the private sector.

Priority was given to the completion of projects regarding the investment expenditure of the public sector. The investments that were made reached 2,128 million pounds, 51 percent of the total investments that have already been made.

This was followed by the expansion projects and the new projects. Investments in this field totaled 1,179 million pounds, which is 28 percent, followed by replacement and rehabilitation projects which reached 877 million pounds, which is 21 percent of the total investments that have already been made.

The report also indicated that the public sector investments that were made and which are estimated at 1,992 million pounds, were mainly devoted to investments in the housing field where 760 million pounds were invested.

This means 38 percent of the total public sector investment, followed by investments in the industrial field which reached 615 million pounds, 31 percent of the total investments that have already been made.

Importance was then attached to investments in the fields of agriculture, transportation, and storage.

The report indicated that positive results were achieved in several sectors. The work of the basic structure in agriculture took place on an area of 128,000 feddans, and electricity work for agricultural projects on an area of 14,000 feddans. A high level of production was also achieved in produce, maize, and sesame.

Makramallah Cited on Foreign Debts, Economy

JN0106100288 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 30 May 88 pp 30, 31

[By Fatimah Ihsan]

[Excerpts] Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, answered ROSE AL-YUSUF's questions very frankly. The dialogue dealt with important topics, including differences with the IMF and its refusal to extend the second installment of a loan,

reports on the suspension of projects of the second 5-year plan, the restoration of Arab-Egyptian relations, and the cancellation of a decision to freeze Egypt's membership in the Arab Fund.

Dr Maurice Makramallah began his 1-hour dialogue with the crisis over foreign currency revenues. He said: Foreign currency revenues fall short of meeting the needs to complete development projects. It is not only Egypt that suffers from this problem. Most developing countries share this problem with Egypt. [passage omitted]

Regarding our negotiations with government and international funds, we are trying to obtain funds through a direct agreement with these countries and funds.

I said: What about the commercial loans?

He said quickly: This ministry has nothing to do with this issue. It is the business of the Central Bank and the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade. [passage omitted]

The unanimous decision to restore Egypt's membership in the Arab Development Fund has crowned the resumption of Egyptian-Arab relations. As a result, the number of Egyptian-Arab economic cooperation agreements is expected to increase.

The resumption of Egyptian-Arab economic relations has prompted a great number of countries in Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia to send economic delegations to Egypt to sign economic agreements with Egypt. These countries include the CSSR, Mauritius, Bulgaria, Indonesia, and Ethiopia.

Regarding Egypt's foreign debts, he said: The ministry took great pains to secure the rescheduling of Egypt's foreign debts in accordance with the Paris meeting. If this is achieved, Egypt will have the opportunity to catch its breath and solve a major problem facing us; namely, the promotion of production. It is no secret that rearranging our economic situation will enable us to repay these debts. [passage omitted]

Dr Makramallah also admits the existence of differences in viewpoint between Egypt and the IMF over the interest rates for despositors and borrowers, the cancellation of the Central Bank exchange rate, and measures to reduce the deficit in the general budget. [passage omitted]

Regarding the reduction of the budget deficit, we can say that Egypt's current economic reform is the result of implementing decisions to standardize the exchange rate in record time.

Due to circumstances out of our control, such as the rationalization of imports, the customs fees returns have decreased and the deficit has increased. Compared to deficits in past years, the current deficit is relatively low. It stands at 18 percent, while we hope to reduce it to 13 percent in the near future. [passage omitted]

Government Meets on Draft State Budget, Reform

NC0306094088 Cairo MENA in English 0745 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, June 3 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak yesterday discussed with his aides the draft state budget for fiscal 1988-89 balanced at 28,300 million pounds, 5,000 million pounds more than fiscal 1987-88 and providing 7,900 million dollars [as received] for investment, report the three Cairo Arabic-language morning dailies in their top billing and leading front-page stories.

President Mubarak asked the government to enforce strict control on the market to achieve a strict confrontation of attempts at prices and at exploitation. The president directed that the enforcement of control on prices be the responsibility of the governors in their governorates.

The president will hold a meeting with the governors to discuss with them their assignment of control prices.

The president emphasized the need for a surge in the implementation of the development plan. He urged the government to adhere to the development process and to see that no recession occurred during the implementation of the plan.

He said that there was no alternative to pursuing the course of total economic and social development which provided for increasing production, making replacements and renewals, completing projects and creating new jobs, the papers said.

The outlay for investment under the new budget amounting to 7,900 million pounds was equivalent to approximately 28 percent of the total budget. The budget outlay provided for the maintenance of appropriations for wages representing around 24 percent of the total outlay.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who attended the meeting, said the president asserted that total economic reform would be achieved by determined implementation of the investment plan and maintenance of its objectives in this coming second year of the five-year development plan.

Al-Sharif said Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi stressed during the meeting that the increase in the budget outlay was related to the fulfillment of principal objectives, notably providing the requirements of economic and social development and maintenance of its objectives without going into recession.

The prime minister, Al-Sharif said, spoke about the pooling of local resources and channelling them to investment. These resources amounted to approximately 70 percent of total private investments.

Also to be channelled to investment were non-repayable foreign grants amounting to approximately eight percent. The prime minister further said that foreign loans incorporated in the budget were no more than six percent of the total budget outlay.

Al-Sharif also quoted Dr. Sidqi as saying that the increase in the new budget outlay resulted from coverage of price differentials of intermediate goods that were imported against dollars when the dollar exchange rate was 135 piasters.

Now the exchange rate is 228 piasters per dollar. Part of the budget increase was provision to cover the burden of increasing wages and salaries as indicated by the study the government is currently conducting. [passage omitted]

IBRD Official Meets Mubarak, Views Cooperation

NC0106163888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] Mu'in Quraysh, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] vice president, met today with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Following the meeting, Quraysh said that the talks were very fruitful.

He added that he told the president that the IBRD will provide Egypt with every possible assistance. He also noted that Egypt has taken several steps toward economic reform which he considers appropriate.

Quraysh said that the World Bank is currently contributing to a number of projects in Egypt and examining the prospect of participating in several others.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi has said that Quraysh explained to President Mubarak the IBRD's concept of future cooperation with Egypt, telling him that a new style of cooperation will be applied.

New Loan Discussed

NC0305070188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)—Tonight, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi met with an IBRD delegation led by IBRD Senior Vice President Mu'in Quraysh. After the 2-hour meeting, Sidqi said that the delegation presented ideas about a new type of loan called a structural loan [qurud haykaliyah], which is not earmarked for certain projects, but can be used in any way the recipient country deems appropriate. The prime minister said that Egypt is going to examine these ideas.

According to Dr Sidqi, he and the delegation reviewed the ongoing dealings between Egypt and the World Bank, current loans, and loans which have not yet been used. Future cooperation between Egypt and the bank was also discussed.

The IBRD delegation has met over the past 2 days with Egyptian officials to discuss the country's relations with the bank. Quraysh arrived in Cairo 2 days ago on a visit to Egypt expected to last a few days.

International Mideast Peace Efforts Urged

NC0305072388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said at his meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan that Moscow had left Washington to seek a settlement of the Middle East problem for many years, without any results.

AL-AKHBAR newspaper says this statement is largely correct and points to the real reason for the failure of all the efforts exerted so far by the United States to settle the region's problems.

In its Friday edition, the paper says that Washington must admit that its attempts to deal unilaterally with all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its interference with those who have the right to represent the Palestinian people have failed to achieve progress in establishing a genuine peace in a region which is of interest to the whole world, not only to Washington.

The paper notes: We know that the United States has unique relations with Israel and that if it so desires it can pressure and persuade Israel to opt for right and justice and withdraw from the territories it has been holding by force. However, the paper continues, events thus far confirm that Washington refuses to apply any pressure on Israel on the pretext that it cannot do so.

In conclusion, the paper stresses that Washington's unilateral endeavors to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict should not continue. International parties, foremost being Moscow and West European countries, and the rest of the UN Security Council permanent member states should participate in such efforts within the framework of an international conference.

Day after day it is proven that this is the most suitable forum for establishing peace in the region, the paper says.

Libya

Yasir 'Arafat, Delegation Arrive for Visit 2 Jun

LD0206204988 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Said To Oppose PLO on Arab Summit

LD0306044288 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0228 GMT 3 Jun 88

["Pool" item — by Dejan Lukic]

[Text] Tripoli, June 3 (TANJUG)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leadership did not succeed in ensuring Libya's support for expanding the agenda of a special Arab summit which will soon in Algiers take a stand on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Well-informed sources in Tripoli told TANJUG that during an official meeting with Yasir 'Arafat's envoy Abu Omar, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi rejected the idea of convening a Middle East peace conference and refused to raise this question at the Arab summit in Algiers.

Libya and other radical Arab countries, together with the Palestinian factions in Algiers, wish to avoid the "diluting of the matter" and the stirring up of any other inter-Arab and Mid-East affair.

This is why 'Arafat did not get Al-Qadhdhafi's approval for the summit to take a stand on the announced mission of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the Middle East, although the Libyan leader is opposed not only to this but also to all U.S. peace plans in the region.

The Libyan press describes all attempts to introduce new topics at the summit as "high treason" and says that "manoeuvring with other topics and the discussion of problems of secondary importance to the central cause represent an action against Palestine and its people."

Similar in tone are commentaries by Moroccan Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki who in Cairo said that at the Arab summit Morocco would raise the question of Egypt's return to the Arab league.

Libyan JANA agency said that the summit will focus exclusively on the Palestinian uprising and on ways of Arab support to the uprising, already in its seventh month, and added that discussion about other topics would not be allowed, JANA recalls that the Arab support to the Palestinians is tragically late in coming.

Independent observers believe that if those supporting the expansion of the summit agenda have ensured the majority in previous consultations, reactions from Tripoli could mean that Al-Qadhdhafi could decide that it is better not to go to Algiers than to "take part in high treason."

'Phantom' Mediation With Egypt Discussed

LD0206192488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, 2 June (JANA)—The Egyptian Government newspaper AL-AKHBAR today published an article in which it discussed what it called mediation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

In its article, the newspaper came up with all that its imagination could allow with respect to this phantom mediation.

This is not the first time that the Egyptian Government media has resorted to this kind of fishing in murky waters and to manipulating the truth, using it as a pretext, when in fact the truth is a pretext against the Egyptian media.

Why not? It is the Egyptian media that made pan-Arab treason a national achievement, emphasizing that the enemy—even though it may aim at annihilating the Arabs, including the Egyptian people—can become a friend who can be trusted with the signing of a document in Washington.

As for the martyrs of Egypt, Palestine, and Lebanon, as well as all of the Arabs, they can go to hell!

As Kissinger said, and the Egyptian press reported at the time: "Bygones are bygones." But, let us keep away from the trivialities that pervade the expressions of the AL-AKHBAR newspaper—which we see as having been overtaken by the [?present] phase, as the framework of the official Egyptian media has also been overtaken and left behind.

In the past, we clarified the question as we understood it to be in this regard. We will do so again because no harm will be done if we make sure once again.

First, the dispute with the Egyptian Government is not a bilateral one that is liable to mediation. On this basis, there is no mediation, because to accept such mediation would be to succumb to the implications of revisionism, whereby national treason would become a point of view that can be negotiated and excused.

It would simply mean that we could close our eyes to thousands of Arab martyrs who have fallen to liberate Palestine and to defend the rest of the countries of the Arab world.

Second, the position of the Great Jamahiriyah vis-a-vis the Egyptian regime has been firm, clear, and principled ever since Sadat signed the treasonous accords of Stable David.

Nothing has so far been issued by the present Egyptian regime, which practically indicates its readiness to abandon. Consequently, there is no excuse for us to reconsider our relations with this regime. We deal with any regime in accordance with that regime's position vis-a-vis pan-Arab issues.

Third, the leader of the revolution was clear regarding Egypt during the pan-Arab speech he made in Tubruq on 28 March 1988. His initiative was directed at our Arab people of Egypt.

It did not concern political relations with the Egyptian regime. Our concern for the relations of unity, brotherhood, and destiny between the one Arab people of the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt does not imply concern for relations with the Egyptian regime.

Finally, the position of the Great Jamahiriyah vis-a-vis pan-Arab issues is clear, principled, and declared. It leaves no room for equivocations and conclusions, be they of good or bad intention.

Further on Visit by Nigeria's Babangida

Cooperation Pact Signed

LD0106230888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, 1 June (JANA)—The minutes of an agreement between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Federal Republic of Nigeria on boosting cooperation in the political, economic, trade, technical, scientific, cultural, educational, and information-related fields were signed this afternoon in Tripoli.

The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service on the Libyan side and on the Nigerian side by Major General Ike Nwachukwu, minister of external affairs.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service made a speech at the beginning of which he expressed his thanks and appreciation for the spirit of cooperation that had emanated from the members of the two delegations, and which permitted the realization of this fruitful action between the two friendly countries.

He stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah will act for the consolidation of the unity of the African Continent and for the struggle for liberation from the racists of the African Continent and occupied Palestine.

For his part, the Nigerian external affairs minister voiced his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and warm welcome given to Gen Ibrahim Babangida and the members of the delegation accompanying him, stressing that the visit to the Great Jamahiriyah by the Nigerian president would be a strong impetus for promoting and strengthening relations between the two friendly countries in various domains.

He said: We appreciate the support and assistance given to the African states by the Great Jamahiriyah, and we count on their continuity for the good of the African Continent.

Joint Communique Issued

LD0206102088 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] A joint communique was issued today in Tripoli and Lagos on the visit of General Ibrahim Babangida, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which said:

At the invitation of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Gen Ibrahim Babangida, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, paid an official visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from 30 May to 1 June 1988.

The president and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the delegation accompanying him were accorded a fraternal reception at Tripoli International Airport, where the brother leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution led those who welcomed him.

The president and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was given the opportunity to visit the city of Burayqah where he saw the Great Man-Made River project and also the petrochemical complex in Ra's al-Unuf where the president and the delegation accompanying him were accorded a warm welcome by the masses of the basic people's congresses in these areas.

He was able to familiarize himself with the achievements of the Libyan people in gaining full control of farming and industrial resources and also in the field of making popular housing available for the masses.

The two leaders discussed various African and international issues. In the field of bilateral relations, the two leaders voiced their satisfaction with the cordial and good relations existing between the two countries, and expressed the need for regular consultations and visits between the officials of the two countries.

The two sides agreed on the need to implement the agreement's provision on economic, scientific and technical cooperation, and other agreements concluded in various fields between the two countries, especially the setting up of a Nigerian-Libyan joint holding company and a Nigerian-Libyan joint bank.

They have issued directives to those in the two countries concerned with boosting cultural, educational, and sports ties, as mentioned in the agreement on cultural and educational cooperation concluded between the two countries in 1983.

The two sides noted the real economic problems afflicting the African countries, and also noted that the debt burdens have grown to an unbearable level as a result of cuts in raw material prices and the effect of drought and desert encroachment.

They voiced their conviction that the best way of facing up to this problem is to increase cooperation between African states. They also pledged to offer their assistance to ensure the success of all the positive steps aimed at publicizing African problems to the world.

The two leaders, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Gen Ibrahim Babangida strongly comdemned the agreements and arrangements made by some industrial countries and institutions in order to bury nuclear and industrial waste in Africa, which damages the health of the African people and their safety, and which constitutes a danger to coming generations.

They regard this matter as a criminal and immoral act, and urge the African governments not to allow the burying of nuclear and industrial waste in the regions under their control.

Furthermore, the two leaders invited the international community to launch a campaign against the burying of nucelar and industrial wastes in any part of Africa.

Concerning the issues of southern Africa, the two leaders condemned the oppressive and destructive actions of the apartheid regime against the peoples of Namibia and South Africa who are fighting for freedom and self-determination.

They also condemned the attempts of Pretoria to infiltrate the African [words indistinct] in order to use it as a stepping stone for sabotage, aggression, and destabilization against neighboring countries.

They also promised to continue their material and moral support for the liberation movements and to the Front-line States, and to struggle relentlessly against the horrors of apartheid until the complete destruction of the inhuman regime of apartheid. They called for the release of Nelson Mandela and the other detained strugglers in South Africa.

The two sides stressed their clear stance toward the need to isolate the apartheid regime in South Africa, and called on the members of the OAU to stop their dealings with the apartheid regime in South Africa.

The two leaders reiterated the call on Western countries to reconsider their economic relations with the Pretoria regime to impose compulsory comprehensive economic sanctions on that regime.

As for Namibia, the two sides called for the immediate implementation of UN Resolution 435, issued in 1978, which specifies a plan for the independence of Namibia. They also opposed introducing marginal issues, such as linking the withdrawal of Cuban forces, with the independence of Namibia.

As for the situation in Chad, President Ibrahim Babangida welcomed Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's declaration, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the OAU, which included recognizing the exiting regime in Ndjamena, a proposal to exchange prisoners and contribute to national reconciliaton between the Chadian leaders, and to help rebuild the regions harmed as a result of the Libyan retaliation raids in northern Chad.

It also included a readiness to settle by peaceful methods all problems which might exist between the two countries.

The two sides stressed their support for the efforts of the OAU to resolve African problems within an African framework and away from foreign interference and pressures.

The two leaders stressed that there will be no peace in the region without the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to an independent state under the leadership of the PLO.

They condemned the suppression of the uprising in the occupied territories and strongly condemned the crime of assassinating Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, as well as the blatant repeated violation of Tunisian sovereignty.

The two sides call on all progressive and peace-loving forces to support the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

At the end of the visit, Gen Ibrahim Babangida, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, expressed his deep gratitude to his brother, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, for the warm, hospitable, and generous reception with which he and the accompanying delegation were met during their visit to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria invited Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, to pay an official visit to Nigeria. The invitation was accepted and its date will be fixed later.

Mauritania

President Leaves on Visit to Tunisia 2 Jun

AB0206221788 Paris AFP in French 1045 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Nouakchott, 2 Jun (AFP)—Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya left Nouakchott this morning for Tunis where he will pay a 4-day official visit at the invitation of the Tunisian head of state, Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Colonel Maaouya was accompanied by a large delegation that includes, in particular, the minister of foreign affairs, Major Lemine Ould N'Diayane, and the minister of information, Mr Mohamed Ould Sidi Haiba.

Tunisia was the first country to recognize and to support Mauritania's independence in 1960. These privileged ties, it is pointed out in Nouakchott, were strengthened by the fact that the two countries belong to the "Treaty of Fraternity and Concord," which also includes Algeria, and which is seen in Nouakchott as the cornerstone for the building of the Great Maghreb.

The possibility of holding a Maghreb summit alongside the Arab summit on 7 June in Algiers will be a particular topic of discussion during this visit, as will recent developments in the Maghreb.

Bilateral issues, and in particular bilateral cooperation, will also be discussed by the two heads of state. Forty-one Tunisian teachers are working in Nouakchott and 190 Mauritanian students are studying in Tunisia.

In the area of fishing, where cooperation is also active, a Tunisian-Mauritanian joint company has been set up.

Sudan

Garang's Call for Negotiations 'Welcomed'

JN0206114788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, 2 June (SUNA)—'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of culture and information and official government spokesman, has welcomed the announcement by John Garang of his readiness to negotiate without preconditions.

He said the step deserves welcome, but Garang should communicate with the government through official channels if he has a real initiative. He explained that the government cannot deal with reports circulated by mass media only.

On the same subject, Southern Administration Council President Anglo Yabra [name as received] said: We are looking forward to seeing a ceasefire that will make it possible to start serious negotiations. We cannot negotiate while fighting. He said that we do not consider a ceasfire a precondition. He described Garang's announcement as a step forward and an oportunity for peace.

Minister of Finance 'Umar Nur al-Da'im said he welcomes this step, which has come 3 years after the war started. He said that the Al-Ummah Party has always called for unconditional negotiations as the only means for a settlement.

Minister of Transportation Aldo Ajo said that if Garang is serious in his call, it will be an opportunity for peace. He said that they [not further identified] are ready to negotiate and take part in the meeting that Garang has called for to bring about a peaceful solution for the sake of peace and security in the country.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, minister of social welfare and member of the Islamic National Front Political Bureau, has also welcomed Garang's announcement, saying that his Front has been calling for an unconditional dialogue for a long time.

He said that his Front sees in Garang's stand a good initiative and an advanced step that will create an appropriate atmosphere for a positive dialogue in the interests of the country.

Doubt Cast on Initiative

JN0306105988 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jun (SUNA)—'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, official government spokesman and minister of culture and information, asserted here last night that the rebel movement led by John Garang is experiencing internal fragmentation and frustration and that there are differences among its leaders.

He said a number of movement leaders who differed with Garang have been executed. Others were arrested and some have disappeared under vague circumstances. The official spokesman cast doubt on the credibility of Garang's initiative to hold a conference to discuss war in the south.

Minister Views New Security Service, Bombings

PM0106115988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 May 88 pp 1,2

[Al-Sir Sayyid Ahmad report: "New Security Service in Sudan Within Weeks"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, Sudanese Defense Minister and Acting Interior Minister, has announced

that the coming few weeks will witness the setting up of a new security service in Sudan to protect the country and its democratic experiment.

In a statement exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the first since he assumed responsibility 2 weeks ago, General 'Abd al-Majid said that the bloody incidents which Sudan has witnessed recently were chiefly attributable to the dissolution of the former state security service after the uprising that toppled the May regime, under which that service worked, and the failure to form a new service to replace it.

He said that the incidents were also attributed to the Sudanese people's characteristic tolerance as well as their democratic experiment, which some exploited to make security infiltrations.

He added: The two terrorist operations which occurred in Sudan recently seem to have been aimed at scaring Western relief organizations, thus hampering the efforts being exerted in this field, especially in southern Sudan, and distorting both Sudanese-Lebanese and Sudanese-Palestinian relations.

Although analyses refer to a number of quarters as likely to have benefited from the two massacres, the Sudanese minister pointed out that there is no irrefutable evidence that a specific foreign power was behind the incidents.

He said: It is possible that personal motives made the perpetrators act outside the framework of any organization to which they are affiliated. [passage omitted]

Rebel Forces Claim Government Casualties

EA2905163488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 May 88

[Excerpt] Bright Star Campaign Special Squad from Hadid Task Force on the 28th April 1988 narrowly missed over Juba Airport one of Sadiq's military cargo planes. On the same day a landmine which was planted by the same force between (Molbor) and Pitia garrison killed 17 enemy troops when the truck they were on detonated this landmine.

On the 30th of April 1988, the same force raided Pitia enemy garrison a few kilometers from Juba town. In this raid, 21 enemy soldiers were killed and many others wounded. [passage omitted]

13 Rebels Surrender

JN0206105588 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, June 2 (SUNA)—Thirteen rebels surrendered and handed over their arms to the Sudanese Armed Forces last week in the area of Rabkona [name as received] in Southern Region.

The group of rebels who gave up said that more rebels are on their way to yield due to starvation created by instability situation in the Southern Region.

5 Policemen Killed in Darfur

JN3005113388 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 30 May (SUNA)—Five policemen were martyred and two others were wounded in a clash with an armed gang in Darfur Region recently.

Security reports from the region published today by the daily AL-AYYAM said that a police force from the Misterei police station affiliated with the city of Al-Junaynah, a city on the Chadian border, clashed with an armed gang after chasing it for its involvement in an armed looting crime.

This resulted in the martyrdom of the chief of the police station, a sergeant, and four others. Two other individuals were wounded.

1.8 Million Refugees Reported in Khartoum

EA0206084288 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] The number of immigrants arriving in the national capital from the south has now reached 1.8 million, according to Dr Ibrahim Abu Rauf, under secretary at the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, and Zakat.

He said the influx was caused by the war and famine in the south. He said it is possible that a relief organization for the capital will be registered. In statements to the papers, Abu Rauf said some other large towns in Sudan are suffering from the problem of migration, for example Kosti, and towns in western Sudan.

Dr Abu Rauf said 68 relief organizations have been registered so far. He added that another four are in the process of registration. His ministry is still considering their applications.

He said the ministry is considering financial regulations for organizations. A committee is in charge of relations with donor agencies and other organizations in the Sudan.

Briefs

Relief Supplies for South

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, in cooperation with the Red Cross Society, will begin today transporting relief supplies to the southern regions by means of an air bridge between Khartoum, Nairobi, and Juba. When meeting southern leaders at his residence the day before yesterday, [Prime Minister] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi assured them that the transportation of supplies would

begin today. The Red Cross has been given permission to participate in this operation together with the Sudanese Red Crescent. [Text] [*EA0106052388 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 May 88*]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Welcomes Visiting Mauritanian President

LD0206170888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] In response to an invitation from His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya has begun a working and friendly visit to Tunisia today. The visit will last until next Saturday, 4 June.

Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya arrived in Tunis at 1600. The Mauritanian president was welcomed at Tunis-Carthage International Airport by His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Talks Begin 1 Jun

LD0306041188 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The Tunisian-Mauritanian talks commenced yesterday evening in Al-Sa'ada Palace in Al Marsa with a one-to-one meeting between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN [Military Committee for National Recovery] and head of state of Mauritania.

It has been learned that this meeting, which lasted for more than 1 hour, concentrated basically on the Arab Maghreb and international issues, and that the two presidents discussed the new positive events recently occuring in the Maghreb arena and the necessary steps for establishing the Greater Arab Maghreb without borders.

Then Prime Minister Mr Hedi Baccouche, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Mestiri, and Tunisian Ambassador to Nouakchott Mohamed Gherib joined the meeting on the Tunisian side; and on the Mauritanian side, Colonel Mohamed Sidna Ould Sidna, CMSN permanent secretary; Major Mohamed Lamine Ould N'Diayane, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Mr Mohamed Haibetna Ould Sidi Haiba, minister of information; Dr Walid Ould Widad, director of the Mauritanian president's office; and Mr Mohamed Lamine Ould Yahiya, Mauritanian ambassador to Tunisia, also joined the meeting.

Libya's Major al-Humaydi Arrives 2 Jun

LD0206225888 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi arrived in Tunisia this evening on a visit during which he will participate in the festival of the 40th day of the martyrdom of Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, who was assassinated by the Zionist intelligence authorities with the cooperation of the U.S. Administration.

Maj Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi was received at Carthage International Airport by Interior Minister Habib Ammar, Information Minister Abdelwahab Abdallah, Culture Minister Abdelmalek Arif, a number of Tunisian Government officials, and members of the permanent mission of the Great Jamahiriyah to the Arab League.

At the airport Maj Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi told the press that he bears a message from the brother leader of the revolution to his brother, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He noted that this visit will be an opportunity for a number of working meetings and talks with the brothers in Tunisia to consolidate and support the idea of unity, whose foundation was laid by the brother leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

In conclusion he praised the distinguished relations of unity between the sons of the one Arab people in the great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia and described them as a step toward the establishment of the Arab Maghreb and the establishment of the great unitary Arab action to serve the aims of our Arab nation.

Brings Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD0306041888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, on his arrival in Tunisia last evening [2 June], said he was carrying a message from the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his brother, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He said that he would meet a number of officials of the Tunisian Government and discuss with them the existing excellent relations between Tunisia and the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the means to push the joint action firmly and forcefully forward within the framework of the Arab Maghreb and for the benefit of the Arab nation. He also said that he would participate in the commemoration of the 40th day of the martyrdom of Abu Jihad.

On the same aircraft was Mr Rajab Abu Dabbus, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Information and Culture. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views Regional Ties, Gulf War
PM0106123188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 May 88 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri by Ahmad Makhtum in Jeddah; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Makhtum] How do you view the convening of the extraordinary summit in Algiers? And what is your view of the summit and the issues to be discussed?

[Mestiri] We consider the summit a great event, since all the leaders of the Arab states will be attending. The agenda is very important, but so far no official agenda has been drawn up. But we all know that the uprising will take precedence at the summit. Since the uprising first erupted there has been no special backing for it. Although the uprising has received spontaneous material, moral, and political support from all the Arab states, there must be coordination among us in order to secure international support for it so that, God willing, the uprising will become a step toward liberating the Palestinian people from Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

[Makhtum] How do you view the state of relaxation in inter-Arab relations and Tunisia's role in this regard?

[Mestiri] Since 7 November Tunisia has spared no effort to secure rapprochement among all Arabs. We began with the brothers with whom we had problems. For instance, as in the case with the Libyan Arab Republic, but today, praise God, Libyan-Tunisian relations are in a position which we can describe as normal, or even better than that; they are brotherly relations characterized by cooperation. We confer over Arab problems and issues raised. We consider what we have achieved with the Libyan Jamahiriyah as something ideal, since we each respect the other's views; and although there are still some problems between us, we are working toward resolving them and laying better foundations for rapprochement. As for Tunisian-Algerian relations, they have been and still are cordial. We have decided to develop them further within the framework of cooperation: There are now joint Tunisian-Algerian projects both on the borders and inside Tunisia and Algeria. All this is a good development which is, thank God, being maintained in the right way. On the political level we maintain extensive contacts and negotiations with Algeria within the framework of the Arab Maghreb, over the problems facing the Arab nation as well as African and international problems. [passage omitted]

[Makhtum] Do you believe there is a special state of relaxation in the Arab Maghreb region? And is it possible to say that there is now a chance to establish a union among the Arab Maghreb states?

[Mestiri] Actually our objective is not to form a unified state in the Arab world. We aim to secure complete harmony in various fields, including the political field. We can at least begin with economic matters, since these constitute a challenge to us. And if we, from now on, do not maintain more coordination among us, our economic and social future will be in danger. Although we give priority to economic matters, obviously we consider political matters important. What we would like to achieve in the near future is a kind of coordination along GCC lines. [passage omitted]

[Makhtum] What are the most notable results of the meeting held in Jarbah between the Tunisian and Libyan presidents?

[Mestiri] No special agreements were signed at that meeting. It was initially agreed to announce our desire to establish an Arab Maghreb similar to the entity now existing among the Western European states, which have overcome the borders problem. [passage omitted]

[Makhtum] The Tunisian Government has been accused of failing to provide adequate protection for the home of Martyr Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad). What is your comment?

[Mestiri] We heard such talk from an Arab Druze leader and another suspect figure. The best proof that such an accusation is unfounded is the fact that the Palestinian brothers are happy with their presence in Tunisia. Besides, the Palestinian leaders have refuted this accusation. It is known that, in not providing full protection, we were responding to the Palestinian leaders' wishes and acting in agreement with them, since we in Tunisia live in peace and security because Tunisia is remote from the Zionist entity. The United Nations has said that Tunisia is targeted by the Israeli enemy because of Tunisia's firm stand in support of the Palestinian brothers. I have not heard any Palestinian of any inclination, even the most extreme inclination, cast doubt even for one moment on Tunisia's stand toward the Palestinian people and its support for the PLO. We consider that Tunisia provides more support for the PLO and the Palestinian people than any other Arab state.

[Makhtum] What is Tunisia's position on the Iraq-Iran war?

[Mestiri] It is difficult for an Arab state such as Tunisia to mediate between Iraq and Iran, since we are Arabs and mediate only between Arabs. But, if it is essential, we will use our contacts to inform our Iranian brothers in Islam that this war will benefit no one but the enemies of Islam. As for their claim that they are the leaders of Islam and the Islamic fraternity, this does not justify the continuation of the war. And although we have no diplomatic relations with Iran, we would not refuse to talk with the Iranian brothers if they requested it. We have stressed to them that their stand is not Islamic, since no Islamic state would continue a war with a fraternal state like Iraq. [passage omitted]

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Cypriot Ship 'Accosted' by Iranian Gunboat

JN0206162788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The British Lloyds Insurance Company said that an Iranian gunboat accosted a Cypriot ship carrying a consignment of metals [mawad ma'daniyah] in the Strait of Hormuz today.

A number of Iranian Navy men went aboard the Cypriot ship and took it to the Bandar-e 'Abbas harbor. Lloyds says the ship sailed from Italy and was heading for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Oman

Minister Says Ties With PDRY 'Excellent'

PM0106115188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 May 88 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Omani Information Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Relations With Aden Are Good"]

[Excerpt] Omani Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas has described the Gulf war as destroying economic and social development in the two warring countries.

Thus, efforts must be combined to end the war, spare the blood of Muslims, and reduce the damage it inflicts on the two warring parties as well as other parties, especially as the region is sensitive in respect of the interests of the entire world.

In a statement exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Al-Rawwas emphasized that in view of geographical factors the Omani stand on the war stems from the need to secure a distinctive role for diplomatic action to reach a possible peaceful solution to the conflict.

He described his country's relations with Aden as "excellent and based on mutual respect for each other's views and noninterference in each other's internal affairs."

He said that the beginning of the week witnessed the submission of credentials by the first PDRY ambassador to the Sultanate and vice versa — which in itself is a reply to rumors circulated by enemies about what they wish to happen between the brothers. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Further on Visit by PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

Received by Shaykh Zayid

JN0206131088 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, received at Al-Jurf Palace this morning PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, Sharjah ruler and heir apparent; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al Maktum, minister of defense; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid, minister of information and culture; and Muhammad Khalifah al-Kindi, minister of public works and housing.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's political advisor and Fatah Central Committee member; Jawid al-Ghusayn, PLO Executive Committee member and chairman of the Palestinian National Fund; Bassam Abu Sharif, 'Arafat's press adviser; and Khalid Malak, acting PLO representative in the UAE.

Further on Talks

JN0206145088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Jun (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received in Abu Dhabi today Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, currently visiting the country.

Present at the meeting were His Highness Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, crown prince and deputy ruler of Sharjah; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al Maktum, defense minister; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid, information and culture minister; and Muhammad Khalifah al-Kindi, minister of public works and housing.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by 'Arafat's delegation.

They discussed Palestinian developments, including the mounting heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland. They also talked about general Arab and Gulf developments and coordination ahead of the Algiers Arab summit in the interest of increased Arab solidarity.

WAM has reported that Shaykh Zayid reiterated the UAE's commitment to supporting the just, national cause of the Palestinian people so they succeed in regaining their rights to their land and homeland.

His highness has also stressed his wish to see the uprising continue and that it be vigorously assisted until its objectives and aspirations are fulfilled.

His highness said: We are gratified to see the uprising against oppression and injustice being kept going, as it is the main driving force behind the Palestinian people's struggle.

His highness added: It is important that the uprising be sustained and intensified, since nothing can better advance Arab as well as Palestinian interests.

'Arafat left Abu Dhabi today after a 2-day visit.

Leaves After 2-Day Visit

JN0306110688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2050 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Jun (WAKH) — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat left Abu Dhabi tonight after a 2-day visit to the UAE.

During his visit, 'Arafat held talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the situation in the Arab arena and developments in the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Muhammad Khalifah al-Kindi, minister of public works and housing, and Khalid Malak, acting head of the PLO office in the UAE, saw 'Arafat off.

AL-BAYAN Cites WAM on Ties With CSSR

JN0206160688 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 1 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Abu Dhabi, WAM — The Governments of the UAE and the CSSR have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level effective 1 June 1988.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Discusses Arab Affairs, Unity Issue

JN2905153188 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 May 88 pp 5, 7

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' in Ma'rib — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Question: How do you view relations between you and President Husni Mubarak?

The Yemeni president: Relations between me and Brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak are good and special, although this is the first time I have met with him.

These relations will reflect positively on relations between our two fraternal countries. This is because I sensed in this man complete clarity, frankness, and sincerity and he seeks to do his utmost for the Egyptian Arab people and also for his Arab nation.

Question: It is clear that you are playing a conciliatory role among the Arab states that have differences. All of us in Egypt know that you played a conciliatory role between Egypt and Libya. Could President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih reveal the details of this role?

The Yemeni president: This is a fraternal obligation dictated by the pan-Arab, fraternal, and human duties of everyone who shoulders responsibility in this Arab homeland as well as on those who can contribute to Arab solidarity, the removal of differences, the unification of ranks, and the healing of rifts. We attentively follow up inter-Arab relations in general, including Egyptian-Libyan relations.

We found exchanges of media campaigns, which do neither befit us as Arabs nor do they befit our Arab character, nation, and traditions. These abuses or media campaigns do not befit us and they harm those who utter them more than those at whom they are directed.

We are supposed to avoid such things. It is out of our special and good relations with Egypt and its president and also with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan people that when the crisis [between Egypt and Libya] intensifies every now and then we hold contacts and find complete understanding from Brothers President Mubarak and President al-Qadhdhafi.

Consequently, we remove this fire, which the forces hostile to the Arab nation try to kindle between the two fraternal Arab countries. There was the planes issue on which we exerted efforts, along with a number of Arab brothers. All of us managed to resolve this problem and both parties responded favorably.

Now, we are still exerting efforts between our brothers in Egypt and Libya. I sensed full understanding by President Mubarak during his visit to Sanaa. He is ready to reach understanding with the brothers in Libya and with Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Following President Mubarak's visit, I held a telephone conversation with Brother President Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and informed him of some proposals to clear the atmosphere between the two fraternal and neighboring countries. I also sensed full understanding by him.

This problem may be resolved in the next 10 days while I am on my way to Algeria. I will meet with Col al-Qadhdhafi and afterward I will hold meetings or contacts with President Mubarak and work out a reconciliatory solution to end the estrangement and differences. I sensed full understanding by both parties.

Question: Will you make a similar attempt to clear the atmosphere between Egypt and Algeria?

The Yemeni president: We also discussed this issue between our Algerian and Egyptian brothers. An Algerian envoy, a member of the FLN Political Bureau, handed me an invitation from His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid.

We also discussed Algerian-Egyptian relations. We noted that there was some misunderstanding on certain matters between the two sides, which were not worth continuing estrangement or differences.

I also sensed a full understanding by President Mubarak and the Algerian brothers regarding the misunderstanding between the two countries so we can take advanced steps toward the normalization of relations between them.

I have confidence in the wisdom and astuteness of President Mubarak and President Chadli Bendjedid.

Question: You have said that the oil wealth is from the earth and will return to the earth?

The Yemeni president: Yes, the oil wealth is from the earth and will return to the earth through construction on the ground, especially in agriculture. Agriculture has produced positive results and the citizens are deeply satisfied because since 1984, which we called the year of development, positive results have been achieved in the country and for the farmers and economy.

There has been a remarkable increase in vegetables, fruits, and other items. [passage omitted]

Question: Let us review the uprising. How can material and moral Arab assistance be extended to this uprising, which you have described as one of the most important Arab events that have proved to the entire world that the Palestinian people have not surrendered or submitted to the occupation?

How can we help this uprising continue, especially since it has been continuing for 6 months despite oppression and violence by the occupiers?

The Yemeni president: The revolution of stones in the occupied homeland has awakened the Arab and Islamic conscience and has moved world public opinion, after the international community had been indifferent and talked slowly about the uprising.

But now the uprising has become a subject of discussion by the entire world as a unique revolution. The Arab group should support this revolution. It needs financial, moral, political, and media support. [passage omitted]

Question: Does the president approve of the formula of an international conference to solve the Middle East problem?

The Yemeni president: Yes.

Question: Particularly regarding the Palestine question?

The Yemeni president: Yes, we support the convening of an international conference. As an Arab group, our viewpoint is clear. We still insist that the Fes resolutions are the only and best solution to the problem because they fall within the framework of Arab solidarity and because we are against unilateral solutions.

We are not talking about canceling any resolutions. We support all the resolutions adopted by the Arab summits, whether those of Fes or Amman. We also support any solution endorsed by the Arab brothers.

We, therefore, are not talking about canceling or agreeing to these resolutions. Question: We now move to the other hot issue — the Iraq-Iran War. Can you see any change in the stands of both the United States and the Soviet Union and how such a change is affecting the war?

The Yemeni president: The continuation of the Iraq-Iran war is a loss. I think that the Arab and Muslim worlds are unanimous in considering the war losing and destructive, of benefit to only the enemies of the Arab and Muslim nation.

As we deeply appreciate and admire Iraq's favorable response to all international resolutions and peace efforts, we hold our brothers, the Iranian officials who have not inclined toward peace, responsible.

Our brothers in Iraq have repeatedly called for peace. All resolutions call on both parties to accept peace. Iraq has complied with these resolutions, but the brothers in Iran have not.

I do not think Iran is benefiting politically. The beneficiaries are the enemies of the Arab and Muslim nation and the countries that export their products. I think the brothers in both Iraq and Iran understand this, but Iraq is forced to fight and defend its sovereignty, independence, and dignity.

We in the YAR clearly and unequivocally support our brothers in Iraq. We say this with pride; we are not the sort that supports Iraq but does not want anybody to know this. No. We want all peoples to know we support Iraq because Iraq is an integral part of the Arab body and what hurts Iraq hurts us in the Arab world. That is what I can say on this score. [passage omitted]

Question: We now move to greater Yemen. The dream of unity remains a goal of the Yemeni revolution. Will this unity remain a goal in itself, or are there other more gradual steps in light of the obstacles and difficulties that unity attempts have faced? Are there new steps on this score?

The Yemeni president: Yemeni unity is an important strategic goal for the September revolution and the Yemeni people who drew up this unity in 1962. It will continue to be a strategic goal that we will struggle to achieve.

But the tremendous legacy that we inherited in both parts of the homeland — the traces of the imamate and cheap British colonialism in the south of the country and the impact of this colonialism — cannot be eradicated in a short time.

We need time, continuous struggle, and mutually deep confidence to achieve that goal. We found a full understanding from our brothers in the southern part regarding the achievement of this strategic goal.

We made advanced steps represented in the establishment of joint ventures, the removal of the barriers and [check] points created by British colonialism and the imamate, the exchange of visits, the freedom of movement of citizens with the use of identity cards, and meetings between officials in both parts. These steps are aimed at removing the fear and estrangement inherited from the imamate and colonialism. [passage omitted]

PDRY Interior Minister Makes Statement, Departs

JN0206185488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Salih Munassir al-Siyayli, Political Bureau member, deputy prime minister, and interior minister in the southern part of the homeland, and his companions left Sanaa last night following a visit to Sanaa during which he conveyed a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the southern part of the homeland.

He also held meetings with the brother officials at the Foreign Ministry and the Unity Affairs Bureau on facilitating the procedures of movement between the two parts.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, Brother al-Siyayli said the results of his visit to the northern part were positive. He noted that an agreement was reached by the two parts' interior ministers on facilitating the procedures of movement between the two parts. He indicated that developed steps in this regard have been achieved.

Brother al-Siyayli added that the facilitation of movement between the two parts will be translated into reality within a short period of time and through speedy measures, which will be noticed by every citizen. He affirmed that unity is a reality represented by the unity of land and people.

Brother al-Siyayli said the brother president has asked him to convey a reply message to Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas dealing with cooperation and coordination between the two parts' leaderships.

He was seen off by Brothers Dr 'Abdallah Barakat, interior minister and Standing Committee member; Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-Shami, Interior Ministry under secretary for financial and administrative affairs; Muhammad al- 'Ammari, director of the Unity Affairs Bureau; and a number of Interior Ministry officials.

Saddam's Family Escapes Iranian Plane Attack

JN0306130788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1256 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—It was announced here today that the Iranian regime sent an F-4 plane to strike the residence of President Saddam Husayn in the village of Al-'Awjah in the Salah al-Din Governorate.

This was revealed during a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command chaired by President Saddam Husayn. After the meeting, an authoritative spokesman said the plane dropped its load on a nearby area. No member of the president's family or any citizens were injured.

Saddam Husayn Statement

JN0306133188 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1239 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party today. Following the meeting, an official spokesman made the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0555 [0155 GMT] today, the regime of aggression and charlatanism in Iran sent one of its F-4 fighter planes to attack the residence of the leader president's family in the Al-'Awjah village in Salah al-Din Governorate.

The plane dropped its load on an area close to the residence as our ground defenses confronted it and forced it to flee after missing its target. None of the members of the leader president's family or citizens were harmed, God be praised.

The aim of the mean Iranian enemy is clear. It is a miserable attempt to hide its ignominious defeats on the battlefield after many years of failure and frustration, especially its recent defeats in the victorious battles of Ramadan al-Mubarak and Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah.

This crime carries several significant and clear meanings. Moreover, it is also an intentional, flagrant violation of the principles which Iraq has announced concerning a moratorium on the bombing of cities and purely residential areas. This attempt was also preceded by many recent Iranian attacks against Iraqi villages all along the border.

The legitimate response to this mean crime is clear; namely, comprehensive, devastating Iraqi deterrence, which the regime of evil, charlatanism, and aggression in Tehran deserves from all humanitarian, legal, and moral considerations.

However, this inevitable deterrence will not be carried out today because Iraq is not the kind of state which acts on impulses. It does not lose its balance in such circumstances.

The leadership's decision not to carry out a direct retaliation today is a position intended to make the Tehran rulers taste more bitterness of defeat and to help the Iranian people, who are stricken by these scoundrels, liberate themselves from the nightmare of these rulers and understand the causes of the defeat inflicted on the Iranian regime in the war and aggression program, especially the Blessed Ramadan battle and On God We Rely battle.

Until they are guided to the path of peace, which is the only solution for the disasters and defeats that have resulted from the path of war and destruction chosen by Khomeyni and the scoundrel supporters, the leadership believes that a retaliation today and the possible resulting uproar may not facilitate this mission for the Iranian people.

However, Iraq will reserve its right to carry out a crushing and comprehensive retaliation which will come in response to all legal and humanitarian criteria, as well as to the feelings of the proud Iraqis.

Action that can achieve the ideal goal in foiling the tyrannical Tehran rulers' plans and measures will be taken at the appropriate time. When that time comes, the tyrannical Tehran rulers will know Iraqi retaliation.

And soon the unjust assailants will know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

President's 'Strong Warnings' to Iran Reiterated

JN0206102588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0808 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)—The newspapers issued here today reiterated the strong warnings President Saddam Husayn sent to Iran 2 years ago. In these warnings, the president said that Iraq will wrest from Iran any inch of Iraqi territory it occupies and will shatter its sinister dreams and make it wallow in the mud of defeat.

In a letter addressed to Iranian rulers on 2 August 1986 and published by the Iraqi newspapers today, President Saddam Husayn said that Iran's slogan that 1986 was the year of decisiveness would fail and turn against the Iranian rulers who should think before they kill thousands of their soldiers in a new adventure.

The valiant Iraqi forces recaptured Al-Faw in the heroic blessed Ramadan operations on 18 April this year and drove the Iranian forces across the Shatt al-'Arab. These forces also recaptured the Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] area in the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah operations on 25 May, inflicting a major defeat on the Iranian forces in the two heroic battles.

The president drew the Iranian people's attention to the fact that their rulers were lying and that their claim that 1986 would be the year of decisiveness was only to send more misled and deluded people to the crematorium.

The president called on Iran to return to the path of peace "so that your people can enjoy the wealth of your country and the blessing of peace." He told them that peace is the only way of rescuing what can be rescued in Iran after "you had sent yourselves to destruction."

In his letter, the president cited the following five principles according to which honorable peace can be reached: the unconditional, complete, and comprehensive withdrawal to the internationally-recognized borders; the complete and comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war; the signing of a peace and nonaggression treaty between the two sides; noninterference in internal affairs and each country's respect of the other country's options; and that both Iraq and Iran should be positive elements in achieving stability and security for the region and the Arabian Gulf region in particular.

He said that Iran should not miss the opportunity to call for peace as expressed by Iraq and that Iraq calls for peace and does not want war and is, at the same time, ready to destroy all intentions to commit aggression until just and honorable peace is attained.

The president stressed that Iranian hopes will be defeated and the empty heads will roll down to be trodden on by the feet of men who believe in their God, homeland, honor, freedom, and the rights of their people.

He said he is eager to keep the peoples of Iran and the region away from the bloody abyss to which the Iranian rulers drove and continue to drive their people.

In his letter, President Saddam Husayn said that Iran's slogan to prolong the war has been foiled and defeated, and its slogan to besiege Iraq economically with the assistance of Syria has also been shattered in the wake of the failure of the hostile military attempts on the international borders. The president asserted that Iran will commit a grave mistake if it deludes itself that it is easy to occupy Iraqi teritory and also if it does not understand the truth of Iraq's great principles.

He added that sooner or later the truth will be revealed. The Iranian rulers will then realize that the opportunity to retreat has left them. They will realize that Iran in 1986 entered the phase of bitter disappointment where danger pursues and tightens its grip, and that disaster befell it in the economic, political, popular, and military fields.

They will realize that the Iranian rulers' curse of the slogan of perpetuating the war and replacing this slogan with one that precipitates time, as well as their call for the year of final decisiveness that may end the war according to ambitions and not according to right and justice, all confirm this fact [as received].

He said: You are deluding yourselves and your slogan is a desperate one—the kick of a dying person—and not the behavior of one who has a sound mind and balanced will.

The president added that this slogan raised by Iranian rulers is only a suicide slogan. All confirmed facts are in favor of Iraq on the military, popular, political, and economic levels and Iran is unable to achieve the superiority it wants, even in the field of military capabilities.

He added that Iran was unable to achieve more than it attained in the Al-Faw triangle where tens of thousands of Iranians were killed and more than 100,000 others were wounded.

All these losses had a negative impact on the continued combat willpower and also on recruiting unfortunate people on the road to the crematorium.

The president emphasized that the year of decisiveness slogan raised by Iran is a futile slogan which will fail and the Iranian rulers will emerge from their aggressive, evil attempts defeated and accursed.

Moreover, the outcome will be in favor of Iran in a way that will bolster the Arab nation's principles and safeguard its security and honor. He urged the Iranian rulers to contemplate before annihilating fresh hundreds of thousands of Iranians.

He said these rulers should proceed on the road of an honorable peace instead of the path of war and should stop the bloodshed and reduce disasters because the path of war has only resulted in their sure destruction.

In his letter to Iranian rulers in 1986, President Saddam Husayn added that the Iranian rulers' defeat is confirmed by two facts. First, superiority is in favor of Iraq.

Hence, if the general mobilization in Iraq is compared to that in Iran, then Iraq's capabilities are greater and more effective. In this regard, he pointed out that the Iranian forces, over a period of 4 years from July 1982 to July 1986, launched more than 22 large offensives for which these forces massed their greatest and best troops and organizational capabilities.

However, all these offensives failed to achieve a decisive military situation in favor of Iran. Second, Iraq is defending its territory, holy places, and honor as well as the Arab nation's principles in its brave defensive battle against Iranian aggression.

Moreover, Iraq knows that there is no alternative or way to safeguard all these sanctities after it has resorted to all means to achieve peace, apart from brave resistance.

In his letter 2 years ago, the president stressed that Iran is deluding itself by pinning its hopes on the possibility of achieving aggressive objectives against Iraqi territory.

President Chairs RCC, Regional Command Meeting
JN0206112988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. The meeting dealt with the splendid victories that the heroic Iraqi forces achieved by liberating Iraqi territories from the filth of Iranian occupation.

The RCC and the Regional Command greeted our Armed Forces' bravery, capability, and efficiency, stressing that their wonderful achievements will enhance right and peace.

The meeting also dealt with the outcome of the International People's Conference for Peace. The RCC and the Regional Command highly appreciated its results, which bolster the world public opinion's role in exerting pressure for peace and the implementation of Resolution No 598 in letter and spirit, and which has good intentions to achieve peace, security, and stability throughout the region. The meeting also discussed the situation in the Arab arena, particularly the Arab summit conference to be held soon.

President Addresses IPCP Envoys, Focuses on War
JN0206130788 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 May 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received representatives of the International People's Conference for Peace [IPCP]: Field Marshal 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, former Sudanese president [title as published]; Hans Koschler, president of the world progress organization [name and title as published]; Dr Musa al-Musawi, head of the Higher Islamic Council in the United States; Dr Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, chairman of the Islamic Popular Conference; Muhammad Ibrahim Shaqra, imam of Al-Aqsa Mosque; Al-Shah Ahmad Nurani [name as published], president of the World League for the Islamic Call; Mohamed al-Yazaghi [name as published], doyen of Moroccan journalists; and Mohamed Bashtaki, minister of parliament in Sierra Leone. [name and title as published].

During the audience, the president stressed that we will do our best to establish peace so that the Iraqi and Iranian peoples will enjoy the blessing of peace. He added that we will continue to seek peace even after the liberation of territory.

The president added that the Iranian regime does not understand our calls for peace and thinks that they stem from weakness. It is also trying to use the territories it is occupying as cards to prolong the war.

The president said Iraq is defending civilization not only in Iraq and the Arab homeland, but also human civilization in general, which is one of the rights of the age. He added that Iran's launching and expanding of the war against Iraq is destructive to man in the spiritual and corporate aspects in addition to the materialistic ones.

What happened in Iran, he said, contradicts human evolution in general. It was also an attempt to return the world, and not only Iraq, to the dark ages.

The IPCP representatives praised Iraq's serious search for peace from a position of victory and capability. They also praised President Saddam Husayn's historic leadership and the great victories scored by the liberation of Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah—victories which will definitely expedite the attainment of a just peace.

The audience was attended by Comrade Hasan 'Ali, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, secretary general of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front, and secretary of the IPCP higher preparatory committee; the president's secretary; and Hani Wahib, the president's press and information secretary.

The following is the text of the president's address:

Praised be God. God willing, we will do our utmost to establish peace so that the Iranian and Iraqi peoples will enjoy the blessing of peace and stability. Even after the liberation of territory we will continue to seek peace because the Iranian regime apparently does not understand our emphasis on peace as stemming from our desire for peace and for an end to the war and to avoid the use of arms.

It thinks that our calls for peace stem from a state of weakness and worry about the future. Regrettably, it is trying to use the territory it is occupying as cards to perpetuate the war and obtain illegitimate demands through aggression.

The liberation of territory is a message to the extremists Iran that war cannot achieve their expansionist aims. They thought that these aims could be achieved through the war and, therefore, they paid the price through great loss of life.

From the practical viewpoint, they fought from 1982 up to the 26th of this month for the area they captured in Al-Shalamjah. Their attacks in this area continued from 1982 until they managed to take this area.

The last battle waged lasted about 3 months and 7 days, from December 1986 to the middle of April 1987. It lasted over 3 months. For this battle they mobilized all of Iran and announced that the year 1987 would be the year of decisiveness.

Fighting continued and 400,000 of them were killed or wounded in this area, that is, a front of 8 km long and 5 km wide. It is this area which they managed to capture in a series of battles beginning in 1982, the latest of which was the battle about which we are talking.

This area was taken from them in an 8-hour battle. As a matter of fact it was a 4-hour battle, for the rest was spent on reorganization and fortification of forces and advance toward the international border. God be praised.

God willing, these messages will be effective at least and will make them feel that expansionist aims cannot be realized. Definitely, we will be happier than they and I believe the Iranians have also realized this because it is unreasonable for deception to continue forever.

However, when there are no rational ones the people should at least choose a way other than that of destruction. They are isolated on the international, Arab, and domestic levels.

Meanwhile, we provide information and facts to the Iranian people. However, you realize that the media of the other belligerent party are not viewed in the same way as those of a neutral party.

It is our duty to supply neutral parties with information about Iran. Naturally, the more the current hostility to war grows inside Iran, the more information it will provide to us and to you about human rights violations inside Iran. Meanwhile, [Iranian] opposition is serious.

In the pictures now you see children and POWs among the dead. Is this not a violation of the Geneva conventions? Is this not a violation of man's basic rights which involves pushing people who cannot yet make their own decision into the crematorium of death?

However, such things have a limit. Coercion, pressures, and the use of violence cannot defeat peoples' willpower for ever. This is what you see now in occupied Palestine.

Look at the pressures, violations, and negligence. These things have resulted in the use of stones to resist weapons. No matter how much the Iranian rulers pressure their people, these people will eventually not endure anymore, so they will prefer resistance by all means to submission and acceptance of the fait accompli.

War which lacks popular approval is an opportunity to mobilize a people against their regime. Hence, an iron fist can be available in a given phase but the continuity will later rally the people to the opposite side.

Addressing our brother audience, we say, if you are convinced that Iraq is defending human values, which are more comprehensive than the mere defense of Iraqi territory, as well as Iraqi culture and its new awakening, then we hope this understanding will deepen in the people that love peace and freedom—freedom which is part of this age and its laws.

What is currently taking place in Iran—by which Iran tries to expand in the region and hence it initiated war against Iraq which has been continuing until now—is a process designed to destroy man's thought, ethics, and aspirations.

The tangible reality and the thinking of people in Iran, a thinking which is contrary to the developments achieved by the human mind and conscience, shows that Iran aims to take back the whole world, and not just Iraq, to ages of darkness of mind, conscience, and thinking.

This is a threat to humanity. Had Khomeyni been given the same resources as Hitler, and had the age been different, he would have been more dangerous to humanity than Hitler.

Between World War II and now, the human mind and people's thinking have developed greatly. Khomeyniism was exposed by Iraq's firm stand backed by all virtuous people.

Had Khomeyniism succeeded in spreading outside its borders, it would have destroyed human civilization, not only in this region, but in the entire world, particularly the Islamic world.

You can be sure of what I say. You know that there are programs to brainwash the Iraqi prisoners and to make them change their beliefs, including the Christians.

Not only Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim are asked to change their religious beliefs according to Khomeyniite thinking, but Christians are also asked to change their faith to the Khomeyniite religious thinking, or to Khomeyni's religion. This process has not been pursued before.

Even Hitler did not ask anybody to change his religion. But this is being practiced by Khomeyni. These are facts which you can check. We are not making allegations, but stating facts.

One of the elements of our ability, whose responsibility we are honored to shoulder, lies in the fact that Iraq is not fighting to defend Iraqi nationalism and the cultural progress of the Arab nation and Arab homeland, but to defend the concepts and fate of human values all over the world.

God bless you and your endeavor. You can be sure that at our best we are more adherent to the course of peace and desire for peace and farther from any intentions to exploit any victory through a narrow view—God forbid—at the expense of Iranian people in terms of land, rights, or anything else.

We want nothing for Iran and its people but goodness and stability and peace. We want security, dignity, and rights to be maintained for our people in Iraq and our Arab people in all the Arab countries neighboring Iran.

Regarding Khomeyni's stand before the eruption of the war, his regime had an ambassador in Baghdad with whom we met, to tell him that we were ready to exchange visits on high levels to solve any misunderstanding between us.

We told them: Do not push things to war. Spare your people and country and spare us and the region as well the evils of a war you seem to be preparing for. Let us solve our problems and live in peace.

This man went to Iran and met with Khomeyni. After this meeting, he did not return to Baghdad as an ambassador. He said immediately after the meeting he met with Khomeyni and presented to him Iraq's desire for meeting on a high level to solve the problems. All this is documented.

As their ambassador said, the imam affirmed that Iran has a direct responsibility toward liberating the Iraqi people from what he called the tyranny of the regime and therefore will continue work to topple the regime. This is what the ambassador said.

Fortunately, Khomeyni did not make these statements, which we and the world have heard, to the media only, but listed them in a book published under his name. We can provide you with this book.

Khomeyni's intention was absolutely clear. I met with their then Foreign Minister Ebrahim Yazdi on the sidelines of the Havana summit. We agreed to hear something from them.

It seems they were presenting these ideas to Khomeyni. Regrettably, the general trend was for pushing matters toward a war and continuing it. Any role for the mind was absent.

As for one of the brother's comment on my call on officers not to be conceited after the battle of liberating Al-Faw, I moreover say that I prevented them twice from leaving the Iraqi land to chase the Iranian forces into their territory.

In the Al-Faw battle, I contacted the commanders and told them to open the river and let whoever wants to escape be able to do so and not to chase them.

They wanted to cross the Shatt al-'Arab because they were able to do so as the land was open without restrictions. I prevented them and told them to stop at their land's border.

After the battle and until now I met with commanders and awarded them. The defense minister says we should at least drive them away from positions which make Basra within the range of their artillery.

This approach will somewhat have a role in liberating the minds inside Iran from impurities, enlightening them with facts, avoiding hostility, and calling on them to avoid hostility and expansion.

We forgive as we are capable, and insist on peace as we are capable. We believe that all of this will have a role in communicating the Arab's thinking and view of life and war and peace to the Iranian people, as well as communicating our concepts of true Islam, true religion.

Regarding the Al-Husayn and Al-'Abbas missile, I say, do you know how much forebearance we showed toward them? Do you know how much they shelled Baghdad and Basra and we remained silent?

They continued to shell Baghdad and Basra for 6 months and we did not reply. We met at the Amman summit and during the summit they shelled Baghdad and killed children in their schools as a challenge not only to Iraq, but to all the conferees.

However, we did not reply to them despite the indignation that prevailed throughout the Arab homeland. We warned them after they shelled Baghdad. We are not used to announcing the production or the development of weapons to warn them against falling in the abyss of the cities' war.

Despite this, we told them that we have a missile with a range of 600 km. What does this mean? It means that Tehran will be within the range of this missile. Two months after this announcement, as I believe, they continued to shell Basra, and we warned them, but they had gone too far in their hostility and instead of only shelling Basra and the other cities, they also shelled Baghdad with missiles.

After this, we understood that they only understand the language of deterrence, and we tried to deter them. The Iraqis, of course, understand some of the details of politics more than the Iranians because they know that our course is not based on weakness.

Despite this, the Iraqis began to criticize how long we continue to show forebearance toward the enemy which interprets this forebearance as weakness. In fact, they went so far as to consider our announcement of the missile as untrue. Is it right for a state to make an incorrect announcement? Regrettably, they lie to their people.

Iraq's territory is your territory, whether you are Arabs or non-Arabs because Iraq's territory is for all good people. We highly appreciate your good wishes.

Your meeting in Baghdad now and your resolutions are considered a big door to peace. At the same time, your efforts constitute an army to be added to the Iraqi armies to achieve peace. We view the matter this way.

I thank you for your wishes and efforts, and I would like you to be certain that we sincerely seek to achieve peace and that we will do our utmost to deal with UN Security Council Resolution 598 with good intentions.

We will exert efforts to implement this resolution if Iran agrees to do so with the same spirit. I hope that you will convey my greetings to the Austrian president. [sentence as published] I also stress to you that you will always see that we adhere to peace.

Regarding our aid to Sudan, with God's help, we will not stop our moral and other forms of support for it because this is our duty. However, if Brother Siwar al-Dhahab has enough time then he can acquaint himself with some of the military activities, and this is an open invitation to acquaint himself with details of all that he asks for.

Regarding Dr Musavi's book, it was a daring book which is the production of an Islamic mind that understands the essence of religion. This is because it brought Muslims close togehter and contributed to deleting abnormal ideas that harmed Islam and the Islamic approach. We are interested in your efforts and wish you success. You are welcome.

Joint Commission With PRC Holds 5th Session

Delegation Arrives 1 Jun

JN0206105988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0838 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)—Yih Zonang, PRC deputy minister of industrial construction [name and title as received], arrived here last night leading a delegation to represent his countrv at the meetings of the Iraqi-PRC joint committee for economic and technical cooperation, to begin later today.

The committee will discuss ways to enhance relations of economic cooperation as well as the exchange of trade and technical expertise between the two countries.

Session Opens

JN0206134888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)—The meeting of the fifth session of the joint Iraq-PRC commission on economic and technical cooperation opened here today. In its 4-day meetings, the commission will look into boosting bilateral cooperation in financial, scientific, and technical areas as well as in trade. They will also consider PRC projects being implemented in Iraq.

Taking part in the meetings are Iraqi and Chinese experts from the ministries of trade, industry, metallurgy, housing, construction, transport, communications, finance, and foreign affairs.

Trade Discussed

JN0206135288 Baghdad INBA in Arabic 1057 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)—Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraq's trade minister, today received Ya Zhu Tang, PRC's deputy minister of construction and development [name and title as received], and chairman of the Chinese delegation to the fifth session of the joint Iraq-PRC commission which began earlier today. They discussed economic and trade cooperation between Iraq and the PRC.

Communique No 3,201 Details 1-2 Jun Combat

JN0206164688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,201 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. Three enemy personnel were killed, a single-barreled machine gun and three vehicles were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. An enemy soldier was killed in the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces, and a machinegun and three various positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. An enemy drone was downed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, and three infantry postions, an observation post, and a medium machinegun were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

4. A mortar and a vehicle were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, a shovel [preceding word in English] was destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 June 1988

Shamir Waits for Shultz Briefing on Summit

TA0306061488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday said he expects to be briefed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz about the results of the Moscow summit, and only after that will he decide about his next steps in the political process.

Mr Shamir said this during a memorial service to 11 LEHI [Jewish underground in prestate days] fighters in Qiryat Ata. Qobi Mandel, our correspondent in Haifa, reports:

[Begin recording] [Mandel] The prime minister, who will meet George Shultz next Sunday, wants to hear from Shultz about the talks held between the U.S. and Soviet leaders.

[Shamir] I will hear what he has to say. I will meet him on Sunday, and I assume he will brief us about the proceedings in Moscow, mainly those relating to the Middle East. We will hear what he has to say.

[Mandel] Are you optimistic?

[Shamir] I am always optimistic. I believe that one day we will achieve peace. I do not know whether peace will come about as the result of what is taking place in the various summits.

[Mandel] Mr Shamir sees a change that may bring about the dying out of the uprising in the territories.

[Shamir] There are signs that the uprising is dying out. Unfortunately there are things that are preventing this—among others, unwarranted interference by Jews and Israelis. [end recording]

DAVAR on Mideast Talks

TA2905114088 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 May 88 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report from Moscow by Gid'on Kouts]

[Excerpt] "The Israeli consular delegation could come to the Soviet Union whenever it pleases. The date for its arrival is now exclusively dependent on Israel. It is our impression, however, that the Israelis are in no hurry," Soviet officials told this DAVAR correspondent over the weekend during a lengthy conversation on the chances for a settlement and the future of relations with Israel.

According to the officials, the Soviet Union and Israel must pursue meetings in neutral places on the level of officials, as the time has not yet come for urgent meetings on a higher level.

"If the President of the United States and the Soviet leader can settle for only one meeting a year, the foreign ministers of Israel and the Soviet Union can hold their first meeting in the United Nations," the officials said.

The Soviet Union wants to develop its ties with Israel. Thus, for example, progress has been made on the subject of cultural exchanges, but political differences of opinion must be bridged through regular contacts on the working session level.

The officials said that as part of these contacts it will also be possible to reach an initial understanding on the international conference. They expressed their opinion that the Middle East issue at the Moscow summit will feature only in the foreign ministers' meetings, while the two leaders will hardly touch it.

Even so, the officials expressed skepticism that these talks would have immediate results. They claim that in the absence of diplomatic relations, there is no room for mutual visits by upper echelon members, adding that such visits could not take place before Israel agrees to hold a peace conference or at least a preparatory meeting.

Yevgeniy Primakov, a leading Soviet foreign policy ideologist and head of the World Economics and International Relations Institute, told this DAVAR reporter that the participation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation whose members are not PLO supporters is possible.

He added that any solution to the situation must take into account Israel's concern for its security and interests as well as Syria's legitimate demand for the Golan Heights, besides the withdrawal from Palestinian territories and an acceptance of their rights.

He told DAVAR that the way the Soviet Union suggested it, the structure of the conference would be flexible, although all the decisions adopted in that forum would have to be passed "as one package" even if they are debated by separate committees as warranted.

The Soviet Union could accept a conference that would serve as an "umbrella." The United States is trying to pass separate accords which are not only amoral but which lead nowhere. He repeated the word "package" as though it were a key word in the Soviet concept. [passage omitted]

USSR Holding Up Israeli Delegation's Visas

TA0206142488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The USSR is again holding up the issuing of visas for the Israeli consular delegation.

The Netherland's ambassador in the USSR, who represents Israeli interests, reported that in his meeting with the number 3 official in the Middle East Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, he learned that Moscow is not prepared to approve the visas until a new official request is submitted.

The Soviet official, called Saliyuv [name as published], said the Israeli request, transferred through the Netherlands at the end of last week, does not match the agreement reached in Geneva between Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's adviser, and Gennadiy Tarasov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry official.

According to Saliyuv, it was agreed at the meeting that a new request would be submitted, based on the agreement reached in Helsinki at the beginning of the year. Now that the new request has been submitted, the matter will have to be reviewed and this will be done only after the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

Request To Repatriate Gazans Under Study

TA0206121088 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Jun 88 p 3

[Report by Dani Tzidqoni]

[Text] Egypt has held up the implementation of the second stage of repatriating the inhabitants of the "Canada" refugee camp from the Egyptian part of Rafah to the Palestinian half mainly because of its reluctance to participate financially in the process. It is now, however, interested in their swift return.

It will be recalled that the Civilian Administration in Tall al-Sultan on the outskirts of Rafah prepared a plan for the absorption of 7,000 inhabitants from the neighborhood, whose return is opposed by Gaza Strip inhabitants and others.

The government took an affirmative decision on this based on the peace agreement with Egypt, in the wake of which the inhabitants of the neighborhood were left in a foreign place.

Under terms of the accord, they were to have remained in the neighborhood until the completion of homes built under their own initiative; only then were they to move back.

Israel is now considering whether to respond to the Egyptian request, which might cause disquiet in the area because of the expected opposition of local Israelis, the bad political timing, and because of the unsuitable conditions for implementing such a rehabilitation plan now existing in the Gaza Strip.

Egypt Denies PLO To Open Al-'Arish Office

TA0206120988 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Jun 88 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, made clear to Minister 'Ezer Weizman yesterday that his country has no intention of permitting a PLO office in Al-'Arish to be established.

Recent reports attributed to an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official who said that Egypt plans to allow the PLO to open an office received a sharp reaction from Defense Minister Rabin.

New Party Established for Knesset Elections

TA2905194588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 May 88

[Excerpt] A new party will be running in the Knesset elections with the establishment of HETZ [acronym for "Just Society"]. HETZ is the movement of Rafi Suissa, a former Knesset member and a former prison service commissioner.

Mr Suissa promises to improve the condition of jails and to help drug addicts. With such a platform, he said in an activists' meeting in Rehovot, he hopes that numerous families troubled by such problems will vote for him. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Report on 1 Jun Incidents

TA0206183588 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Jun 88 p 5

[Report by Roni Shaqed and Hayim Broida]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday children from the Al-Am'ari, Al-Duhayshah, and Al-Jalazun refugee camps held marches on the occasion of International Children's Day. In Al-Jalazun the event turned into a demonstration during which stones were hurled at an Israeli car driving nearby.

Two days ago the residents of Kafr Malik in the Ramallah district held a demonstration during which they threw stones at an IDF position in the village. The soldiers fired rubber bullets, injuring one of the residents. He was later transferred to the Ramallah hospital.

A curfew was imposed on a Qalqilyah neighborhood 2 days ago, after a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli car. Yesterday some 30 trees were uprooted near the place where the those who threw the firebomb took refuge. The curfew in the area continues.

[In a report by Shefi Gabay and 'Ezra Yanuv on page A8, Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 2 June adds: "Yesterday the Gaza Strip remained quiet. Laborers left for work in Israel and business was brisk. More than 40,000 Gaza adults aged 16 and above have already had their their ID cards replaced."]

Temple Mount Rioters Sentenced

TA0206114488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jun 88 p 4

[Report by Andy Court]

[Excerpts] In a deal worked out between the defence and prosecution, 11 Jerusalem Moslems who assaulted policemen on the Temple Mount in April were sentenced to 45 days in prison yesterday after agreeing to NIS 5,000 [New Israeli Shekels] if they committed such an offence again. [passage omitted]

The 11 were arrested on Friday, April 22, when they were part of a demonstrating crowd of about 1,500 who had just emerged from the midday prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Those sentenced were accused of assaulting or attempting to assault policemen as the crowd threw stones at the police station inside the Temple Mount compound.

IDF Corrects Casualty Toll

TA0206140588 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Jun 88 p 12

[Report by Oren Kohen and Amnon Levi]

[Text] The IDF spokesman's office yesterday corrected Arab casualty toll figures for the uprising, contradicting earlier statistics issued by IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Efrayim Lapid 2 days ago.

Since the beginning of the uprising in the territories, 188 Palestinians, 1 soldier, and 1 civilian girl have been killed. Up until 27 May, 8,141 men from the territories had been detained. Some of them were placed under administrative detention while the majority are still held in detention.

According to the updated figures, 130 people have been killed in the West Bank, 99 of them by IDF fire and 31 others in different circumstances such as settlers' shooting, electrocution, or otherwise.

In the Gaza Strip, 58 local Palestinians were killed, 53 of them by IDF gunfire and 5 others in different circumstances.

During the same period, 1,521 Palestinians have been wounded in the territories, 1,003 in the West Bank and 518 in the Gaza Strip. This figure includes only those who arrived in the hospital and were registered by the IDF.

The same source reports that during the same period, 346 soldiers have been wounded: 237 in the West Bank and 109 in the Gaza Strip. Some 207 civilians were wounded, 197 in the West Bank and 13 in the Gaza Strip.

Knesset Member 'Oded Zucker yesterday provided the Knesset with further data. According to Zucker, 44 houses—home to some 600 people—have so far been demolished in the West Bank.

Of the 5,133 residents who were wounded between December 1987 and April 1988, 1,999 suffered from club beatings, 647 were hurt by tear gas, and 979 were wounded by firearms.

Leaflet Printers Arrested

TA0206121588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jun 88 p 4

[Report by Andy Court]

[Excerpt] Two brothers from 'Isawiyah village in Jerusalem were sentenced this week to seven months in prison for using their printing press to produce leaflets for the Palestinian uprising's underground leadership.

Police and soldiers confiscated the printing equipment of Musa and 'Ali Darwish a few months ago after seizing a shipment of leaflets and tracing them to the Darwish shop.

Three judges in Lod military court on Tuesday handed down the seven-month sentence although the prosecutor had requested a few years. [passage omitted]

Camp Curfews Set

TA0306045088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] The inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have been called on to strike during the visit to the region of U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and to mark the anniversary of the Six Day War.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the security forces in Judaea and Samaria are preparing for the possibility of disturbances over the weekend. A curfew was imposed this morning on the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps and on several neighborhoods in Rafah.

A blockade has been imposed on the Nusayrat, Al-Mughazi, and Al-Burayj refugee camps. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that few workers left for work in Israel this morning.

Gaza Carpentry Shop Closed

TA0306052488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] The security forces last night sealed a carpentry shop in the Rimal quarter of Gaza. The shop was sealed after youths were found making sharp instruments to damage the tires of vehicles.

In another quarter of the city, the security forces destroyed the room of a man who confessed to throwing a firebomb at an Israeli Army vehicle.

Arab Woman Confesses

TA0306053288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Eli'ezer Schlesinger, the yeshiva student killed yesterday morning by an Arab woman, was buried last night in the Mount of Olives. About 400 mourners attended the funeral.

The woman, who has a criminal history of drugs and prostitution, was arrested shortly after the crime. She has reportedly confessed and even reconstructed the crime.

Police believe Palestinian nationalism is the motive behind the killing. The woman apparently lived among Jews in Jerusalem and was assimilated into Israeli society. The murder took place in Saker Park in the center of town.

Tel Aviv Lawyer in Gaza Court

TA0306105088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] The first Israeli lawyer to represent a client before a Gaza military court appeared this week. The lawyer, who is from Tel Aviv, defended a youth from the refugee camp of Al-Burayj who is charged with throwing a Molotov cocktail at an army patrol.

The youth was found guilty and sentenced to 8 months in prison. Lawyers from Gaza have been boycotting the military courts for the past few months.

Camps' Curfew Lifted

TA0306133088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] At noon the security forces lifted the curfew from the Al-Shati' refugee camp, as well as from several neighborhoods in the Rafah refugee camp. Worshippers in the Gaza Strip mosques dispersed quietly after prayers, and no disturbances were recorded. The Jabalyah refugee camp remains under curfew.

Youth Killed Near Hebron

TA0306112388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] An Arab youth was shot to death in Shuyukh near Hebron, and his body was transferred to a Hebron hospital. Arab sources say he was shot by Israeli citizens, but military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that there was no IDF force in the village today. The incident is being investigated.

Al-Khasawinah Says No Direct Talks With Israel

JN0306090588 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—KUNA—Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah has said Jordan will not enter into direct negotiations with Israel and will not sell out Arab rights, but rather continue to defend them according to a pan-Arab concept in whose creation Jordan took part along with brother Arab leaders in all Arab states.

In a statement to KUNA yesterday, Dr Al-Khasawinah denied a report published in a Lebanese newspaper on 30 May about a Moroccan call for a Jordanian-Egyptian-Israeli meeting as a prelude to Jordan's entering into direct negotiations with Israel in the phase following an international conference.

He said this report implies great harm to Jordan's struggle and stand toward the sacred Palestine question—a stand known by the whole world. This report is also untrue, he added.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Views Moscow, Algiers Summits

JN0306084788 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jun 88 pp 1, 13

[Political editor's article: "The Arab Summit Faces Issues"]

[Text] An extraordinary Arab summit is scheduled to convene in the Algerian capital on Tuesday. A few days prior to this summit, Gorbachev and Reagan held a summit in Moscow.

The Moscow summit discussed the Middle East problem in light of the Palestinian people's revolution in occupied Palestinian territories. Consequently, the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region's states, which also precedes the Arab summit's convocation [sentence incomplete as published].

The U.S. secretary of state will try to hint at amendments to his plan, known as the Shultz plan. He will also try to affect the unity of the Arab stand at the extraordinary summit.

In order not to take seriously the sweet talk uttered in various places and designed to weaken the Arab stand—and there is no proof that such flowery talk is serious—we are urged to achieve further solidarity to attain genuine unity in terms of stands, efforts, and goals through the Arab leaders' meeting in the expected extraordinary summit.

Apart from signs issued by international news media concerning the Shultz initiative and the embellishments that have been made or will be made on it, there is an unsurmountable reality—namely, the arrogant, intransigent Israeli stand. This stand does not recognize any rights for others and throws overboard the stands of the whole international community.

During the Moscow summit, Shamir issued clear signs about what Israel can accept or reject without taking into account the great changes that have placed the Palestine issue and the whole Middle East problem on top of the priorities list.

Shamir outlined Israel's stands in a clear-cut manner. He said Israel is interested in its security, not its reputation. Consequently, Israel does not agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state and Israeli forces should not withdraw from any territory.

Moreover, Israel is opposed to an international peace conference in the Middle East and affirms, through its prime minister, that Arab states should get used to the idea of direct negotiations with Israel.

In view of these intransigent stands, based on Israel's strength and its capability of movement as a result of this strength and its reckless logic, it becomes clear how much this logic has influenced the Moscow summit through raising the issue of human rights in the Soviet Union.

Naturally, those concerned with these rights are the Soviet Jews. These aggressive statements, which emanate from intransigent stands declared by Yitzhaq Shamir before and after the Moscow summit, leave Arab leaders no sideline arena for maneuver.

Hence, these leaders should learn the lesson and be ready to confront the grave consequences resulting from the Israeli stand. The Moscow summit will not provide us with what we could not regain in terms of inalienable and legitimate rights in the arena of Arab-Israeli conflict.

The extraordinary Arab summit is of utmost importance in light of the Moscow summit, Shultz' upcoming tour, and Shamir's provocative statements. This summit will convene with the strongest weapon to confront the international conspiracy; namely, its unified stand and the revolution being waged by the owners of the cause on the land of the cause.

While current Jordanian moves throughout the Arab arena aim to bypass negative aspects and build a strong basis for a unified Arab stand—embodying the resolutions adopted by the Amman summit, the summit of reconciliation and accord—we hope the huge efforts exerted by Jordanian leadership to support the Arab cause, thwart aggression on the Arab homeland, and build a joint, Arab, intrinsic power will not be in vain.

These efforts aim to safeguard the Arab homeland and emphasize Arab rights, supported by the strength to entrench these rights in all fields. The Arab summit faces pressing issues [istihqaqat 'ajilah], some of which we have mentioned.

Our leaders know more about these pressing issues, and we hope they will be able to create the appropriate atmosphere to face them as they safeguard Arab existence and protect the future of coming Arab generations.

AL-DUSTUR Views Shultz' Middle East Tour

JN0306100388 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jun 88 p 1, 14

[Editorial: "Is There Anything New in Shultz' Pouch?"]

[Text] Secretary of State George Shultz is due to arrive in the region today on a new tour to propagate the U.S. initiative, which aims at considering the possibility of establishing peace in the region.

Although it is difficult to expect Shultz' new tour to differ from the previous ones, it is still appropriate for us to repeat within earshot of the secretary of state the bases that King Husayn suggested for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

It is also beneficial to remind him of the six principles that Jordan presented as an Arab vision of the conditions that should be present in any peace initiative.

If the U.S. secretary of state has understood these principles and has investigated the possibility of realizing them, his initiative might bring the region closer to the dream of just peace.

But if George Shultz has returned to the region still under the delusion of imposing solutions, or propagating Shamir's prevarications or Peres' evasions, his present tour will end the same way his previous shuttle tours did.

The bases of a just peace are clear and time and effort should not be wasted on sideline attempts to gain public opinion here and there. Neither should he pretend that some effort is being exerted, when the sole beneficiary from the perpetuation of this situation is the Israeli occupier, who still wagers—despite startling facts that the uprising of the victorious people has exposed—on keeping both land and peace.

It is our right to ask Shultz, after the time that has passed since Jordan announced the six-point memorandum during the secretary of state's last visit: Is it possible to achieve any peace in the region without acknowledging the inadmissibility of occupying other people's land by aggression, and without admitting that Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories is the basis for a settlement and the establishment of just and permament peace? Can it be achieved without a settlement of all aspects of the Palestine question?

Jordan has very clearly announced that an international conference attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO and the five permanent members of the Security Council, is the most appropriate framework for establishing peace.

This conference should not be merely a festive international meeting, whose only aim is to start direct talks. It should reflect the constant moral power of the five permament members of the Security Council.

The principles of Security Council Resolution No 242 also apply to all occupied Arab territories and are the bases of negotiations. Jordan has clarified that it will attend the conference, when it convenes, as an independent sovereign state, and that it will not represent the Palestinian people nor negotiate the settlement of the Palestine issue in place of the PLO.

The clarity and national duty that Jordan has expressed through the six-point memorandum is a solid basis for any attempt to establish just and comprehensive peace in the region.

We are full of hope that Shultz has absorbed these objective and just principles and has returned convinced of them. Otherwise, we do not believe that the results of his present tour will differ from his previous visits, which have not achieved anything up till now.

Al-Fayiz, Al-Masri Meet Bulgaria's Stanishev

JN0206161488 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Amman, 2 Jun (PETRA)—House of Representatives Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz met at his office this morning Dimitur Stanishev, secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP].

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations in all spheres, with special emphasis on those pertaining to the parliamentary field, as the next IPU session will be held in the Bulgarian capital.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri also received at his office this morning the secretary of the BCP Central Committee.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and results of the Moscow summit held between the U.S. and Soviet leaders, with special emphasis on those pertaining to the Middle East situation and the Palestine question.

They also assessed the situation in the occupied Arab territories as well as the heroic resistance being displayed by Arab citizens in the face of Israeli occupation policies.

Prince Hasan Returns From Seminars in U.S.

JN0306063488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned to Amman from the United States yesterday evening. He sponsored the opening of two Jordanian investment seminars held in Pittsburg and Atlanta in the State of Georgia.

His highness was received at Amman airport by the prime minister, the Royal Hashemite Court chief, the court minister, his highness the chief chamberlain, the Amman mayor, his eminence the chief qadi, the Air Force commander, and a number of senior officials.

U.S. Ambassador Contacts President on 'Incident'

NC0206195788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The U.S. ambassador in Beirut, John Kelly, contacted President Amin al-Jumayyil this evening and informed him of the incident in which his motorcade was involved. President al-Jumayyil stressed that the incident is being dealt with, particularly since it has transpired from investigations that it was spontaneous.

SLA Releases 17 Detainees From Al-Khiyam Prison

NC0206114688 Marj 'Uyun Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] released 17 detainees from Al-Khiyam Prison at approximately 0900 today after they pledged not to engage in any sabotage activities in the border area.

Resistance Group Attacks Lahd Militia Positions

NC0206200088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] A group of Lebanese resistance fighters today attacked an agent Lahd militia position on the road to Kafr Hunah with machineguns and rockets. Meanwhile, another resistance group fired three 107-mm rockets at a position jointly held by the occupation forces and the agent militia in Bra'shit, scoring direct hits.

In another development, the occupation forces established a new position in Al-Qantarah, bringing in tanks, mortars, and heavy machineguns. The Israeli forces also imposed a curfew on several villages near Al-'Urqub. Before that, the same forces had entered Shab'a and searched many homes.

Israeli Settlement Shelled

NC0306091388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] A national resistance group operating inside the occupied border strip shelled the Misgav 'Am settlement in the occupied Upper Galilee at 0100 today. Three Grad rockets hit the settlement, scoring direct hits. The enemy immediately lit up the area with flares and raked the Wadi al-Suluqi area with mortar fire. The enemy radio admitted the operation this morning.

Nabih Birri Called 'New Nero of Beirut'

NC0206120588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The wave of reactions to and denunciation of the practices being carried out by Birri's gangs in the South and the southern suburb is still ongoing. The faithful young men in (Al-Hillaniyah) have issued a statement in which they strongly condemn the crimes being committed by the new war criminal in the South and the suburb. They reiterated their absolute commitment to the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, may God preserve him.

Meanwhile, the faithful sons of the Al-Miqdad clan in the villages of Al-Qantarah, Maqnah, and Lasa and the areas of Al-Ruways, Sfayr, Al-Ghubayrah, Hayy Madi, Al-Janah, and Al-Awza'i have pledged their resolute allegiance to the leader imam and denounced the crimes and destruction carried out by the suspect gangs which belong to the new Nero of Beirut. They affirmed their rejection of all attempts to harm the spiritual leaders, particularly Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and the ulema strugglers in the South.

The Musawi clan in Qarha has denounced the bestial acts of the new war criminal, Nabih Birri, and his lackeys in the South and in the suburb. The Nasir al-Din family sent a cable of support to the Islamic Resistance in the South, pledging allegiance to Imam Khoemyni, may God preserve him.

Hizballah Accuses Amal of Torture, Harassment

NC0305064988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] In the wake of successive violations of the security plan by the Amal Movement gangs in the southern suburb, particularly in Al-Shiyah, security sources expect an intensive deployment of Syrian forces and internal security personnel in the inner quarters of Al-Shiyah in a bid to avert security incidents which might cause setbacks in the plan. According to security reports, Amal Movement gunmen have conducted wide-scale storming operations against several houses belonging to our faithful brothers.

The Hizballah Information Mobilization Department issued a statement last night accusing Amal gangs of deliberately opening fire at six of our brothers in Al-Shiyah yesterday, killing one and injuring another. The statement adds that the Amal Movement is still harassing our brothers in the South and is still holding dozens of strugglers captive in its detention camps in Al-Nabatiyah, Zifta, Al-Sarafand, Tyre, and Al-Kawsariyah. Our brother strugglers are being subjected to various forms of torture and harassment.

Commenting on yesterday's report that a number of kidnapped Hizballah personnel had been released, the statement notes that this report is totally baseless. The statement strongly condemns the attack on the home of scholar 'Abd al-Muhsin Fadlallah in Khirbat Silm.

Leader Views Amal Future in Southern Suburb

PM0306133188 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1-7 Jun 88 p 18

[Interview with Amal Movement Political Council member Dr Ayyub Humayd by Ruba Kabbarah in Beirut; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Kabbarah] What is the fate of the Shi'a in Lebanon after all that has happened, in view of the fact that it is now divided into two loyalties: Syrian Arab loyalty represented by Amal, and Iranian loyalty represented by Hizballah?

[Humayd] The position of the sect as a whole cannot be determined by a small section of it. The history of the Shi'a is Arab and promotes unification. It adheres to its religion and beliefs. Such a history will not change its course whatever the temptations or pressures. The Shi'a will remain the sect of Arabism and Islam.

[Kabbarah] In view of the defeat inflicted on the Amal Movement, what will be the position of Shi'ite political decisionmaking?

[Humayd] First of all, Amal has lost positions in the suburb, but it has not been defeated. As for Shi'ite decisionmaking, no one will represent it but the Shi'ite Council and the Amal Movement.

[Kabbarah] And Hizballah?

[Humayd] It is basically an Iranian creature in terms of rehabilitation, training, financing, and decisionmaking.

[Kabbarah] Will the suburb events move to the South?

[Humayd] The South is the main point. Certainly they will try to stir up the situation there. Had it not been for the Movement they would have taken the South hostage, just as they did with the suburb. We were not against their political presence there. We were there for the sake of security in view of their deviant practices. [passage omitted]

[Kabbarah] Why did the Syrian entry into the suburb come late?

[Humayd] Syria has its own calculations. But, we were confident that President al-Asad would intervene, as he has always done, at the right time in response to the call of the people of the suburb, who cannot return there without a security cover protecting them. Such cover can only be secured by the fraternal Syrian forces.

[Kabbarah] How does the Amal Movement explain the quick fall of most of the suburb?

[Humayd] Our position was a defensive rather than an offensive one. We did not maintain an atmosphere of aggressive mobilization against Hizballah, even after the incidents in the South. Besides, that party received huge financial support. The Movement had no choice, but to enter the military battle in order to spare blood and prevent destruction.

[Kabbarah] If you lose, you will be outside the suburb.

[Humayd] At that point the Movement's decision will change since that is the last position. We will stand fast and defend it right to the end.

[Kabbarah] How will you fight in the suburb, since Amal has announced the dissolution of its military arm?

[Humayd] We in Beirut are represented merely by militias. As for the main military arm, it is in the South. [passage omitted]

[Kabbarah] How do you view the Iranian role in Lebanon in general and at the Shi'ite level in particular?

[Humayd] Iran is not actually interested either in the suburb or in the South. Its interest in both is tactical and falls within the framework of its interests in basic issues, like the Gulf war for instance. Its role in Lebanon is nothing but a result of the current regional situation. [passage omitted]

Amal, Palestinians Meet; Atmosphere 'Positive'

NC0305063888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] A Palestinian source has stated that an extremely positive atmosphere prevailed during a meeting held at the residence of Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri on Wednesday evening. The meeting was attended by a delegation representing the various Palestinian factions. The source declared that various issues were discussed, particularly matters affecting the Palestinian presence in the South and the recent propaganda campaigns.

According to the same source, the conferees decided to form a committee comprising an Amal delegation and representatives of the Palestinian factions to follow up the situation which recently emerged. It was also agreed to halt propaganda campaigns. The source pointed out that Minister Birri expressed the Amal Movement's readiness to cooperate seriously with regard to Amal-Palestinian relations and that he proposed the future coordination of relations by means of regular meetings.

1st Karami 'Martyrdom' Anniversay Marked

NC0106134488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Lebanon today commemorates the first anniversary of the martyrdom of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami. A mammoth ceremony was held at the Rashid Karami playground in Tripoli today amid a general strike and national mourning. The nationalist forces have insisted on honoring the values, principles, and solid stands of the departed, and on expressing determination to continue the national battle against the Phalangist conspiratorial regime that planned and implemented the crime of assassination. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly and representative of President Hafiz al-Asad, spoke first. He said: I have come from Damascus, the lion's den, and fraternal Syria, entrusted by the leader of the Arab struggle to participate in this occasion. [passage omitted]

By assassinating him, the murderous agents, whose hearts are full of spite against the homeland, tried to implement the Zionist-imperialist plan to fragment Lebanon. They sought to Zionize and divide Lebanon as a step toward implementing the Zionist scheme backed by imperialism and its agents. A reading of the present realities affirms that their goals have been foiled: the Camp David accords are in their death throes and the 17 May [Israeli-Lebanese] agreement of submission has been abrogated. Beirut triumphed over its invaders and those opposed to the unity of Lebanese territory, and people have retreated to their burrows.

He stressed that Syria maintains that there will be no relinquishing of Arab rights or any Palestinian rights, nor bargaining over a grain of Arab sand or drop of water, regardless of whether Shultz or anyone else comes here.

We call for strengthening Arab solidarity in order to offer our kinfolk in the occupied land all possible support and backing. He went on to say that the eruption and exacerbation of the Lebanes crisis despite all efforts to solve it was intended to strike at Syria as much as Lebanon. We declare that Syria, led by President al-Asad, will not allow Lebanon to be partitioned or fragmented. The Lebanese people will only accept a united Lebanon, a united people and land. We are most concerned about the victory of the Lebanese people's will. Syria maintains that the Lebanese people will not separate from its Arab body; namely, the part that is closest and basic to Lebanon—Syria. Everyone must understand this fact. Lebanon is for all and will not be divided into two, one for masters and one for slaves. [passage omitted]

Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made a speech in which he said that Karami was the most prominent symbol of patriotism in Lebanese politics. [passage omitted]

A whole year has elapsed since Karami was assassinated. What was the worth of his life, asked Al-Huss. The crime revealed that the life of the Lebanese regime's prime minister was worth nothing, but his worth to the homeland was everything. He was treacherously killed amid his protectors, to whom he had entrusted his life. No punishment has been handed down for negligence, abetting, or collusion. No officer, soldier, or worker has been removed from his post. [passage omitted]

Everyone has gone on as before, as if nothing happened. This is the worth of a Lebanese prime minister to the regime. Al-Huss added that they [not further identified] said: Let the investigation uncover the identity of the culprits so that every criminal can receive his punishment. They said this because they knew that investigations produce no results except in minor crimes. They know that determining responsibility for neglect and defects does not entail criminal investigations, but analysis to determine responsibility in terms of posts, ranks, and positions. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss added: Karami's worth was very dear in his homeland. The year that has passed since he was killed has been rife with tribulations and ordeals which bear testimony to the value of the man. The political crisis has been exacerbated, affecting every aspect in Lebanon. It has been a year of political injustice, disintegration, and deterioration, demonstrating that Karami is irreplaceable, although he was easy to assassinate. He boycotted the president, but the regime's henchmen were unable to bring him down. He resigned, and they failed to replace him. He was assassinated, but they could not compensate for him. The government has remained in a state of resignation, awaiting the formation of a new cabinet. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss continued: We believe the continuing state of war is unwarranted, because we believe the war will end when we agree among ourselves and when we know how to disagree. We believe that the war is over, and it is high time we agreed. Until we agree, God willing, we must learn how to disagree, learning from experience the futility of internecine fighting and the evils of guns. [passage omitted]

Commander Ja'ja' Discusses Presidential Election

NC0206173188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has declared that the claim that the Syrian Army entered Lebanon to protect the Christians, Shi'ites, or Palestinians has been proven false. He said the truth is that the Syrians entered Lebanon with this excuse in order to strike at the Christians, involve the Amal Movement in fighting with the Palestinians and Hizballah, and to then let it fall without protection. They also struck at the Palestinians. In fact, they struck at everyone to ensure their interests.

In an interview to be published by AL-DIYAR tomorrow, Dr Ja'ja' says: The Syrians want to enter the eastern area the same way they entered the southern suburb. I emphasize though, that they will never enter the eastern area. He points out that the eastern area is a red line that cannot be tampered with. There is an understanding between the Lebanese Forces and President Amin al-Jumayyil, he stresses, on the fundamental and basic point of not permitting the election of a president who would hand Lebanon over to Syria.

The Lebanese Forces commander discusses Syrian attempts to obstruct the constitutional deadline. He explains that Damascus is not the only player in Lebanon, saying: We will use all means to hold the presidential elections. Dr Ja'ja' goes on to say: Syria does not have a parliamentary majority. The proof is that if it had such a majority, it would not have threatened to obstruct the presidential elections. He adds: The Lebanese deputies, and not the United States, Syria, or Israel, will decide the results of the elections.

Dr Ja'ja' appealed to the deputies to make up their minds and elect a president who will work for independence. Ja'ja' says further: We have reorganized the Lebanese Forces and prepared them for their military and main political role in Lebanon. The Lebanese Forces have become an institution which assimilates all the capacities of the young without taking into consideration their political affiliations.

Syrian Forces Arrest Hizballah Members

NC0206171188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Syrian Forces have arrested several Hizballah members in Beirut's southern suburb, including Abu 'Ali, who is in charge of the Al-Hajjaj center.

Meanwhile, Amal militiamen attacked the house of 'Abd al-Muhsin Fadlallah in Khirbat Silm in the South. A clash ensued between the attackers and gunmen inside the house and three were injured. Amal also arrested 'Ali Al-Shami, a Hizballah supporter, in the same village.

Mustafa Sa'd Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC0106114588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] According to special reports from Sidon, Eng Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, was the subject of an assassination attempt 2 days ago. The explosion of a device used for this purpose injured one of his escorts, who is from the Al-Dirani family. The man's legs were amputated and he was taken to Ghassan Hammud Hospital in Sidon.

An Islamic nationalist gathering in Sidon warned yesterday of so-called enemy conspiracies and schemes and urged greater vigilance, unity, and readiness to nip all of the enemy's schemes in the bud.

It is worth noting that Eng Sa'd recently received a Syrian warning not to participate in a new government. His name had appeared among the proposed names of this government. Syria also has been instrumental in bringing about the split between the Nasirite Popular Organization and the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party.

Shevardnadze Sees Women's Group Representative

JN2905163988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] On the sidelines of the Gorbachev-Reagan summit, USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday received representatives of the women's group who arrived in Moscow to present demands and memorandums to the USSR-U.S. summit meeting for the sake of an objective summit.

Dr Najah al-'Attar, Syrian culture minister and representative of the Middle East women, urged the convening of an effective international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO, to end Israel's aggression and expansionist ambitions in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr al-'Attar cited CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on the need not to make the international conference deviate from its objectives so that it will not turn into an umbrella for negotiations through which Israel can achieve its expansionist and aggressive aims.

Dr al-'Attar pointed to the brave struggle being waged by the Palestinian Arab people against occupation. She said: This people's tragedy carries the potential of posing a great danger to peace in the Middle East and the whole world.

Concluding her speech, Dr al-'Attar asserted that peoples' struggle and resistance will continue as long as there is aggression, occupation, and disavowal of legitimate rights.

Receives Foreign Minister

JN0306053188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Moscow—A meeting was held between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow yesterday evening.

The discussion dealt with the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit, which ended in Moscow yesterday morning. The two ministers also discussed the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

The talks highlighted the two countries' viewpoints on the situation in the region. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the ongoing development of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Moscow yesterday afternoon on his return to Damascus at the end of his official visit to Japan.

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Japan

JN0306120588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus today with the accompanying delegation after concluding his official 3-day visit to Japan.

Reportage on Al-Shar' Visit to Japan

For coverage of the 4-day visit of Foreign Minister al-Shar' to Japan, including meetings with Prime Minister Takeshita, Foreign Minister Uno, and Liberal Democratic Party Secretary Shintaro Abe, see the Japan section of the 3 June East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Afghanistan

11th Protest Submitted to UNGOMAP 3 Jun

LD0306082388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 2, BAKHTAR — The eleventh notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on the (?violations) of the Geneva accords by Pakistan was submitted to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) based in Kabul today, reports the liaison office of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan with the UNGOMAP.

The notice has given exact information on the location and time of the violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan. The notice asks the UNGOMAP to assess the cases of violations and inform the authorities of Afghanistan on the results.

Najibullah Receives PFLP Delegation 1 Jun

LD0306093888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 2, BAKHTAR — Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC received the delegation of the People's Front for Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] headed by Ahmad al-Husayn, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Front here on Wednesday.

Matters of mutual interests including domestic and international situation were discussed during the meeting.

Farid Ahmad Mazdak, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan, also met with the Palestinian delegation on the same day.

Matters on mutual cooperation between the youth organisations of the two countries were discussed in the meeting.

The Palestinian delegation is currently paying a friendly visit to Afghanistan at the invitation of Central Committee of the PDPA.

'Bloody Clashes' Among 'Extremists' Noted

LD0206123488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 1, BAKHTAR — Bloody clashes took place among various extremists groupings in different parts of the country caused by the deepening internal differences during the past week, report our military correspondents from several provinces of the country.

Bloody clashes occurred among the extremists in Nejrab district of Kapisa Province, Qarah Bagh district of Kabul, Sorkh Rud district of Nangarhar Province, Galyan sub-district of Ghazni Province, Gereshk district of Helmand Province as a result of which fifty persons were killed and tens of others wounded.

It shows that the realization of the national reconciliation policy and signing of the Geneva accords caused deep confusion and differences among the various extremist bands. Thus they resort to killing each other.

80 'Extremists' 'Crushed' in Faryab Province

LD0306090488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] A number of extremists who wanted to disrupt the peaceful life of our compatriots in suburb of Meymaneh city, Faryab Province, were crushed by the security forces of that province.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of the operations by the security forces of Faryab Province, which were carried out yesterday with cooperation of people in that province, 80 of these criminals were crushed and a number of them were captured.

Also in the course of these operations, four DShKs, six rocket launchers, three recoilless guns, and two mortars belonging to the extremists were destroyed.

India

Commentary Doubts Zia's Promise of Elections

BK0206104788 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Jun 88

[S.C. Bhatt commentary]

[Text] Eleven years ago in July 1977 the first elected government in Pakistan headed by the late Zulfiqar 'Ali Bhutto was overthrown by General Ziaul Haq, chief of the Pakistan Army.

General Ziaul Haq had then pledged that he would hold fresh elections to the National Assembly within 90 days. It took him as long as 9 years to keep that part of his promise.

For the past nearly 3 years, a limited kind of democracy had come up in the country, limited because as president of Pakistan General Ziaul Haq had far too many powers and secondly, because the elections were held on partyless lines, which by itself was a mockery of democracy.

All the same, the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, had emerged as a sober and respected leader and limited democracy was having a fair trial.

Now, suddenly on the 29th of last month, General Ziaul Haq exercising the sweeping power he had retained as president dismissed Mr Junejo's government. The prime minister had just returned from a trip to China and some other countries when General Ziaul Haq summoned the press and announced that he had dissolved the National Assembly and dismissed the Junejo government.

He accused the government of failure to maintain law and order and allowing corruption to grow unchecked. Since General Ziaul Haq himself was a part—in fact a large part—of the government, he was charging himself with these failures and ought to have resigned himself.

Once again he promised the people of his country elections in 90 days. In view of the experience they had with the manner in which the general had kept his promise made the first time in 1977, they cannot be blamed if they cannot trust his words.

When 2 years ago there was big public agitation for fresh elections on the basis of parties and their programs, General Ziaul Haq had put down the agitation with a heavy hand.

Now suddenly he holds out the olive branch while doing away in a fell swoop with the government that was making its way as an experiment in limited democracy.

Not only did the general dismiss the Junejo government, but also the four provincial governments in his country and dissolved the provincial assemblies too. He had promised on the 29th of last month that he would install a caretaker government in place of the dismissed government of Mr Junejo.

Four days later, he is yet to redeem that promise. His choice of the new chief ministers of the provinces shows his preference for Army officers. General Ziaul Haq has, it is interesting to note, never given given up his position as chief of the Pakistan Army even during the last 3 years of limited democracy.

He is in the unique category of being both president and chief of the Army. In fact, as defense minister Mr Junejo was at least technically General Ziaul Haq's boss.

All these are pointers to a setback to the experiment with democracy. Even those politicians in Pakistan who had at first greeted his announcement of fresh elections in 90 days soon saw their mistake as they realized that the strong man was once again assuming full powers and relying on his friends in the Army for holding key positions in the county.

To be frank there are few takers for his 90-day promise of a fresh poll. While there are many conjectures as to the real motivation of the man who has ruled over the people of Pakistan 11 years in dismissing an elected government, there is no doubt that the clock of democracy has been set back.

It is possible in the course of time General Ziaul Haq will be able to make a show of democracy in Pakistan which would still enable him to retain vital powers.

But the hope that from a limited democracy the nation would progress toward real democracy has been dashed to the ground. The reason for this is that General Ziaul Haq has no intention of sharing power with any one.

His emergence as president of Pakistan was brought about in so-called election which was far from democratic. There were no candidates and all that the people were asked to do was to approve his Islamization policies.

An insignificant number took part in that referendum and that was enough for General Ziaul Haq to proclaim himself president with side powers which he has now used for doing away with Prime Minister Junejo's government.

The Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, has just issued a stern warning to Pakistan over repeated attacks on withdrawing Soviet troops in Afghanistan by the Pakistan-backed rebels.

Reports from Pakistan had earlier pointed to Junejo having serious difference with General Ziaul Haq on Afghanistan and other issues. General Ziaul Haq has ambitions of playing a larger than life role in regional affairs. If democracy at home was proving a hinderance to the realization of ambitions, he has shown that he could dispense with it.

Secretary-Level Talks With Pakistan End

BK0206124388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The foreign secretary level talks between India and Pakistan covered a wide-range of bilateral issues. The 2-day talks which concluded in New Delhi today also covered regional matters including Afghanistan and the current international situation.

A joint press release issued today says that both sides agreed to resume talks at a mutually convenient date. While the Indian delegation was led by the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, the Pakistan delegation was headed by his counterpart, Mr Abdus Sattar.

Mr Sattar also called on the prime minister and conveyed to him the good wishes and greetings of the Pakistan president. He also met the minister for human resources development, Mr Narasimha Rao; the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant; and the water rsources minister, Mr Dinesh Singh.

Pakistan's Sattar Comments

BK0206161088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The 2-day secretary-level talks between Pakistan and India ended in New Delhi today. A joint press release issued in New Delhi this evening said that the delegations of the two countries held fruitful talks in a very frank and cordial atmosphere.

Various bilateral issues were reviewed at length during the talks. Views were also exchanged on regional issues including Afghanistan and the current international situation.

It was agreed to continue the process of dialogue and that the dates would be fixed according to the convenience of the two sides. The Pakistani delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar and the Indian side by Indian External Affairs Secretary K.P.S. Menon at the talks.

The Pakistani foreign secretary met Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and delivered a message of good wishes to him from President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. He also met India's minister for human resources development, P.V. Narasimha Rao, Defense Minister K.C. Pant, and Water Resources Minister Dinesh Singh.

Talking to newsmen at Delhi airport before his departure for Islamabad this evening, the Pakistani foreign secretary expressed the hope that, with the passage of time, the positive aspects of Pakistan-India relations will help in the settlement of issues which obstruct the development of an atmosphere of trust and cordiality between the two countries.

In reply to a question, he said that although the pace of normalization of relations between the two countries is slow, if we look what has been achieved during the last 16 years since 1972, we will find it quite satisfactory.

He said that the success achieved by us during this period is notable if we compare it with the situation prior to the Simla Agreement. Abdus Sattar said that exchanges of views always promote mutual understanding. The main thing is that the process of negotiation is continuing. He said that we have to expand this process and include new and positive points in it.

The Pakistani secretary also said that he has always been optimistic that his visit to New Delhi will enhance the cordiality and understanding between the two countries.

In reply to a question, the Pakistani foreign secretary said that Rajiv Gandhi has sent a message of good will to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Iran

Further on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Appointment

LD0206105188 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni today appointed Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. The appointment came following a proposal by President Khamene'i to the effect. In a letter to Imam Khomeyni, President 'Ali Khamene'i said in his opinion speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani was the only suitable person to be assigned "this important responsibility."

The president said all the affairs relating to the Armed Forces, the Army, the IRGC (Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps), and the Gendarmerie, (and these affairs) ranging from military operations, procurement, organisation, administration, etc. must have been delegated to a single person who would be made obliged by the imam to closely and decisively run them.

The instructions of such a person, the letter said, must be obeyed by the Armed Forces tribunal in prosecuting the accused and in carrying out convictions.

Following the president's proposal, the founder of the Islamic Republic issued a decree appointing to Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces "with full authority."

The imam said he had made the decision with regards to "criminal America's confrontations" with Iran and Islam as well as in the light of coordination between the West, the East and regional reaction in their joint campaign against the Islamic Revolution to prevent the victory of Islam.

The imam's decree assigned Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani the following tasks:

1. Formation of a Central Command Headquarters until the ground for full unity is prepared.

2. Full coordination among the Army, the Sepah (IRGC), the Basij, and the security forces in all areas of the holy defence of Islam. Evidently the coherence and acceptable merger of relevant and back-up (government) offices and organisations will play a fundamental role in coordination of the armed forces.

3. Concentration of the military industries as well as providing for the needs of our holy defence... and also mobilisation of all the means and possiblities aimed at specific goals by the commander-in-chief.

4. Endeavours towards a better utilisation of the possibilities and forces as well as preventing the deployment of material and spiritual means in superfluous cases, and to this end elimination or merger of in essential and repetitive organisations.

5. Concentration of publicity and cultural affairs of the Armed Forces in all fields.

6. Sound and decisive use of the laws of the wartime military tribunal and punishment of violaters whatever their positions.

7. Accurate exploitation of the people's support in all grounds.

Meanwhile, the legislative, the executive and the judiciary are obliged to employ all their capabilities and policies in the direction of the war needs, the decree stressed.

"I want the dear people of Iran as well as the military and security forces to stand against plots of global arrogance with revolutionary patience and with strength and resistance, and rest assured that victory will belong to those who enjoy forbearance.

"Today's world is filled with deception and depravity and you the supports of Islam are at the peak of sanctity and honor. I pray for you all. May the Almighty protect those who struggle in his path."

The imam also wished success for Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Khomeyni Decree on Appointment

LD0206125688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1034 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has appointed Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces. According to the Central News Unit, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamane'i requested in a letter that Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, appoint Hashemi-Rafsanjani as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The letter says: The specific proposal which I made and which was submitted verbally and in writing is that:

1. All affairs pertaining to the Armed Forces, the Army, the IRGC, and to the Gendarmerie, including operations, logistics, organization, administration, and other affairs, should be entrusted and assigned to a single person.

2. The said person should be made responsible by Your Grace to manage the affairs closely in a decisive manner.

3. The military court [dadgah] of the Armed Forces is dutybound to fully abide by the opinion and instructions of the said person in its prosecution of accused people and execution of sentences.

Taking everything into consideration, in my opinion the only suitable person to take charge of this important responsibility is Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In reply to the request made by the president, the following decree was issued by the imam of the ummah, addressed to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Sheykh 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, may your blessings continue. Taking note of the direct confrontation of the world-devouring America against Islam and Iran, and the collaboration of the West and the East and the region's reactionaries in their fight against the Islamic Revolution and their prevention of Islam's victory, in accordance with the proposal made by the esteemed president, His Excellency Khamene'i, may his blessings continue, I appoint Your Excellency as acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces with all the powers it entails. Your Excellency is dutybound to carry out the instructions below:

1. The establishment of a general command headquarters until the grounds for complete unity have been prepared.

2. The full coordination of the Armed Forces, the IRGC, the Mobilization Forces, and those forces sent to all fields of the sacred defense of Islam. It is obvious that the acceptable and correct amalgation and consolidation of related departments and organizations, including logistics, will have a fundamental role in the coordination of the Armed Forces.

3. The concentration of the military industries and the provision of the needs and requirements of our sacred defense and the consolidation of the repair, logistical, technical, engineering, combat, training, and research resources and also the mobilization of all resources and means for the specific objectives set down by the commander in chief.

4. The investment of efforts to maximize the use of resources and forces and to prevent the deployment of material and spiritual resources in nonvital areas and, in this same vein, to close down or assimilate organizations or bodies that are not essential or are duplicating tasks.

5. The concentration of propaganda and cultural affairs of the Armed Forces in all fields.

6. The decisive and correct use of the laws of the military court during war time and the prosecution of offenders of all ranks.

7. The correct utilization of people's donations in all fields. The executive, legislative, and judicial authorities are dutybound to deploy all their resources and policies for the needs of the war.

I call on the dear people of Iran and on the armed and security forces to stand steadfast with revolutionary patience and endurance and with strength and resistance in the face of the plots of global arrogance, and to know that victory belongs to those who are patient. Today's world is saturated with injustice and treachery and you, the true followers of Islam, are at the height of purity and honor. I pray for you all. May God be the companion and protector of those that are resisting along his path. I beseach God to grant you success. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi al-Khomeyni, 2 June 1988

Majlis Speaker Thanks Khomeyni

LD0306083688 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday cabled a message to the leader of the Islamic Revolution thanking the imam for appointing him as the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the temporary speaker of the Majlis was assigned the new post Thursday following a proposal by President 'Ali Khamene'i.

In a letter to Imam Khomeyni, the president said he believed Hashemi-Rafsanjani was the most liable person to assume "this important responsibility."

In his edict, the founder of the Islamic Republic gave Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani "full authority" in coordinating the activities of the Armed forces in the "holy defence" against the Iraqi enemy.

In his cable to the imam, the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces expressed hopes that he would succeed in carrying out the new task "with divine dispensations and through the all-out cooperation of the people and the Armed Forces."

In related news, the chief of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces Brig. General 'Ali Shahbazi declared the support of his forces for the appointment of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In a cable to Imam Khomeyni, the newly-appointed Shahbazi pledged that "we will make sacrifices until the last drop of our blood in the fight against global arrogance and for the glory of dear Islam."

Meanwhile, commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i, sent a congratulatory message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Reza'i expressed hope in his message that the acting commander-in-chief, through a massive mobilisation of the Armed Forces, "will create new zeal in the battlefields for a more rapid supression of the aggressors."

Commentary on Appointment

LD0206132288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Station commentary: "The Transfer of Powers of the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces by the Imam of the Ummah"]

[Text] Following a proposal by the president of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution, issued a decree appointing Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces. He retains all his other responsibilities.

In the decree, his holiness the imam graciously referred to several important points, a careful investigation of which pinpoints the significance and sensitivity of this transfer of authority at this juncture of the imposed war. In the first part of the decree, the imam of the ummah, referring to the direct confrontation between the world-devouring United States and Islam and Iran, graciously noted the coordination of the East and the West with the regional reaction in the fight against the Islamic Revolution, and their efforts to prevent a victory of Islam. In this way the decree stressed the importance of a unified command in the Armed Forces under the present circumstances.

At a time when the sworn enemies of Islam have mobilized all their resources to put pressure on the Islamic Republic in order to force Iran to surrender and submit to shame and abjectness, an acute need was felt in this sensitive situation to make more and better use of our forces and resources in strengthening our holy defense and in delivering crushing blows on the enemy.

Today, war is the most important issue facing the country, and all the state's resources and policies should therefore be deployed in achieving victory. For the same reason, the imam of the ummah's decree addressing Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, graciously stressed: The legislative, executive, and judicial powers are dutybound to direct all their policies and facilities toward meeting requirements of the war. Also in this decree, the imam of the ummah reiterated the need for full coordination between the Army, the IRGC, and the security forces. One of the secrets behind the victories of Islam's fighters is the unity of our forces and coordination. The imam of the ummah has repeatedly stressed the importance of this issue. This unity and coordination, under a unified command in the affairs of the Armed Forces, including their operations, logistics, and so forth, will have better results.

Another point mentioned in his holiness imam's decree is the proper and decisive implementation of regulations of the military court in times of war, and punishment of

offenders of any rank. As the honor and dignity of the nation depends on the war and its outcome—for which the exalted martyrs of Islam have given their blood—in the same sense it is important to confront offenders of any rank. A decisive approach in this respect plays its deserved role in the proper organization of war affairs and the realization of the system's objectives.

It is hoped that this transfer of power will be the beginning of major developments in the battlefield as part of the efforts of the responsible officials and our dear fighters. May the true friends of Islam succeed in bringing more pride to the dear Islam through their victories in a world which is saturated with injustice and treachery.

Opposition Leader Comments

JN0306094088 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council, has said that Khomeyni's relinquishing his post as commander in chief of the Iranian Armed Forces and the appointment of Hashemi-Rafsanjani to this post will not prevent the fall of the Khomeyni regime. He added that vesting the legislative, executive, and judicial powers in Hashemi-Rafsanjani for the purpose of serving the war will lead to a volatile situation conducive to the fragmentation and dismemberment of Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0306103188 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA—Substitute leader of Friday prayers here Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today said no one in the world can alter Iran's resolve to restore its rights. "We are determined to take our rights from the atheist 'Aflaqi party (of Iraq) at whatever cost," he stressed.

Addressing a huge crowd of Muslim worshippers at Tehran University campus and its nearby streets, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who has just been appointed acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, said following the recent developments in the war fronts, "we should take the situation more seriously," something which he said "we have started doing."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also temporary speaker of the Parliament, said "no compromise, no submission and no backing down from our rights" is Iran's ultimatum to the world regarding the war with Iraq.

"We have told them (the world) to identify (Iraqi ruler) Saddam as aggressor and a competent court decide his punishment. But the objective experience of our time tells us they are not honest... we must be present in the war fronts. The Armed Forces should know that no body thinks of us...."

Addressing international assemblies, he said missile attacks or regaining of some territory (by Iraq) in the war could not change a nation's determination to take back its denied rights. "If you are honest you better tread the path of honesty, if not we will prove to the people of the world that we will restore our rights."

On the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said if the summit should happen to defuse tension or take a concrete step towards disarmament in the world it may be a bliss, but he observed that his past experience indicates the contrary, and that no superpower summit has ever done any good to the world peoples.

The deputy [as received] commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces pointed out that if Reagan and Gorbachev were truly honest in their claims and if they really wanted to do without nuclear bombs they would first try to eliminate the long-range nuclear missiles which, he said, poses a more serious threat to humanity that the intermediate-range missiles.

Said Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressing himself to Reagan and Gorbachev "why do you deceive the peoples? Why are you putting up a show for you elections campaigns?... You are both trouble-makers for the the world peoples."

The substitute leader of Friday mass prayers asked the superpowers' leaders if they have done any good in places such as South Africa where injustice reigns, or whether they have ever thought of the plight of the Afghan people "who are being massacred by Soviet troops" or of Cambodians and Palestinians against whom "the Zionist executioners are committing repeated crimes."

In a rhetorical question to Reagan and Gorbachev Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani questioned them if they are really concerned about what is happening to the people in the southern Lebanon, or if they have once hesitated to ponder about the wars they have been waging against the peoples in the four corners of the world "for furthering their own ambitious goals," or if they have ever responsibly thought about the well-being of the Nicaraguan people, or about the Persian Gulf or the Iraq-Iran war.

He said no one in his right mind would ever think of Reagan as true advocate of the human rights, nor would he support Gorbachev's lame explanations for Soviet involvement in Afghanistan.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani questioned whether there was democracy in South Africa or Saudi Arabia or if the superpowers were not really responsible for the bloodshed in Panama, Nicaragua, Cambodia and Lebanon.

He said if the leaders of the two blocks happen to make occasional comprimises in dealing with each other it is solely part of their joint conspiracy for dividing the world between themselves, and not meant as anything in the interest of other nations. He said the world nations have generally suffered as a result of any agreement so far between the two power blocks.

Elsewhere in his sermons Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani reflected briefly to his appointment by Imam Khomeyni Thursday as deputy [as received] commander-in -chief of the Armed Forces, and commented that whenever as a result of his new duties he should be unable to attend the Majlis sessions either of the two vice speakers of the Iranian Parliament would act on his behalf.

He said that he had accepted the responsibility because he realized President Khamene'i's busy schedule and his involvement with his various national and international tasks would not allow for his regular presence at the war fronts.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that his appointment as deputy commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces would entail breakthroughs in the Iraq-Iran war.

Ceremonies Mark Anniversary of 5 Jun Uprising

LD0206222788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The inauguration ceremonies for the congress commemorating the 25th anniversary of the bloody uprising of the 5 June 1963 were held on Thursday at Hoseyniyeh Ershad in the presence of Ayatollah Mahdavi-Khani, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi and Shaykh Hasan Sane'i, several members of the Secretariat of the Imam and a gathering of students from the Qom seminary and eminent families of the martyred.

According to the Central News Unit, during the ceremonies, selected poems were read by several poets for the occasion of 5 June. After the performance of a song by the children of the martyred, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief, delivered a lengthy speech about the 5 June uprising and the reasons for the victory of that uprising and the role of the clergy in the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The acting commander in chief analyzed the reasons for the victory of the Islamic Revolution, saying: Now that we are victorious, we must not be negligent with regard to the defeated enemy. We must not think that the big powers, who have thousands of agents in the society and who, according to their own claims, have vital interests in the region, will simply leave us alone. They have different plans for suppression and, at each stage, they implement one of them. If they were to succeed in creating discord among us, they would have used the most effective methods. The nation must be very vigilant and give importance to the [word indistinct] of the system.

Regarding the continuation of the war and the presence of the fighting forces on the fronts, the acting commander in chief emphasized: In order to benefit from years of advancement and battle, the presence on the fronts must be maintained and, toward this goal, our nation is inspired by the following phrase of Hoseyn, son of 'Ali, may God's peace be upon him, that life is nothing other than belief and jihad and, at the present time, the ideal of justice is Islam and we are fighting in that path. We renew our promise to the pure spirits of the martyrs of 5 June that we will continue in their path under the leadership of the dear imam.

Majlis Speaker's Address

LD0306090188 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 3 Jun 88

["'Never Back Down, the Enemy Will Not Leave Us Alone,' Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tells Nation"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—The acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces Thursday reiterated that the war with Iraq should continue until all the "predetermined targets set by the imam" are accomplished. "If we back down, even a bit, in the war, we will sustain major losses," he warned.

Speaking at a congress held in commemoration of the June 5, 1963 uprising of the Iranian people against the ex-shah, the temporary speaker of the Parliament further emphasized "it would be immature to imagine that the enemy has left us alone." He said Iran's enemies would not get disappointed because he believed "they are greedy against our country and our interests."

"The arrival (in the region) of one of the modern and equipped American warships, which they claim is worth one billion dollars, indicates the extent of their avarice and that they regard us a great threat against themselves," Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated.

Stressing the need for the people to be ever present in the war fronts, he said contrary to other countries and against the Iraqi Ba'thists' policy, "We rely on the people's force in the war." He said a lack of people's presence in the battlefields would result in weakness. "We must consolidate our presence in the war fronts in order to exploit the long years of experience and success (we have acquired) in the fight against the enemies," he noted.

The imam's representative at the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) which decides the war policy of the country, further stated in his speech that the Armed Forces should attract the people in all the war-related affairs so that "arrogance would be deprived of this last weapon and we get prepared to face the next schemes of world-devourers."

On the significance of the June 5 uprising in 1963 against the oppressive rule of the ex-shah, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani underlined the role of the ulema (Muslim theologians) in the event and describe them as pioneers of Islamic movements over the past 25 years.

He, however, cautioned the theologians to keep "your close and sincere contacts" with the people and not turn to a "privileged and well-off" class because he said "this will result in defeat."

The speaker said a rift between the people and the ulema would encourage the former to opt for "Islam minus theologians" something which he stressed would result in discord in the society.

On June 5, 1963 a number of Iranian cities, including Tehran, Qom, Tabriz, etc. witnessed anti-regime demonstrations which were turned to bloodshed by the shah's security forces. Thousands of Muslim demonstrators were martyred in the incidents which marked a turning point in the history of the Islamic Revolution.

More on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Address to Majlis

LD0206095488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 May 88

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Majlis on 31 May in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic passage omitted] With Almighty succor and thanks to the guidance of his holiness the imam of the ummah and to the support and committed presence of the people on the scene, the Islamic Majlis is today holding its first formal session after the necessary preliminary meetings to prepare for the formal sessions to investigate the [deputies'] credentials. Thanks be to God, the task has started satisfactorily. As one who was actively present during the two previous terms, I am glad to see that among the elected deputies there has been a growth in cooperation, harmony, discipline, and efficiency in the early days of the Third Majlis. We hope that this trend continues. I am sincerely grateful to the brothers, to the members of the presidium by seniority, particularly to Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansabi, who performed well the responsibility assigned to him. [passage omitted]

No doubt this Majlis is loyal to the aspirations of the revolution. Certainly the imposed war and the defense of the revolution, of Islam, and of the homeland will be our main priority; and our dear fighters should know that they will have a powerful supporter in the third Islamic Majlis. The aspiration of social justice, which has been one of the most outstanding slogans and aspirations for us, will definitely have the full support of this Majlis, and depending on the country's possibilities, we shall move toward this objective, God willing.

We renew our previous pledge with the pure and sacred souls of martyrs of the revolution, the martyrs of our holy defense, that we shall follow their path and we shall not let their rifles fall to the ground until we realize the aspirations for which the most sacred blood of our people has been shed, God willing. And we also promise our dear prisoners of war, who are bound in the chains of the Saddamists, and the war disabled and the wounded that we share their suffering and, God willing, with their assistance and with the help of others, we shall bring the fruits of this suffering to our nation and to our revolution.

This responsibility is placed on our shoulders now that we are the people's elected representatives in this Majlis. We hope that our dear nation will continue its support for the Majlis as before; and we remain in need of his holiness the imam's guidance and instructions for the country's high-ranking authorities.

We shall remain at the service of the people, as colleagues of the serving government, of the judicial system, of the Armed Forces, and of other revolutionary organs and foundations. On behalf of the Majlis deputies, I thank the Interior Ministry, the Council of Guardians, and all the individuals who worked hard for the elections. May we succeed in putting into practice our experience in passing laws in this third Majlis, God willing.

Khamene'i Praises Imam's Message to Majlis

LD0106194988 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today termed Imam Khomeyni's message to the third Majlis (28 May), which dealt with the special assembly for determining the Islamic Republic's interests as "an eloquent tribute to the great and sensitive responsibility of the assembly."

In a letter to the leader of the Islamic Revolution Wednesday, President Khamene'i who also chairs the special assembly, said it is a matter of pride that Islam breaks down all barriers which are the result of different conditions, and shows the "straight path" to the people.

"The Islamic Revolution and its leadership continue to march forward in accordance with Islamic principles," said the president, noting "establishment of the assembly is undoubtedly a marvel of this leadership."

He said the assembly is obliged to take speedy and firm measures, expected by Imam Khomeyni and the revolutionary people of Iran to protect the interests of the Islamic Republic.

Majlis Approves More Deputies' Credentials
LD0206151588 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—The Majlis (Parliament) approved credentials of 75 more deputies including 27 from Tehran, in a session chaired by temporary speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today. Credentials of 12 other deputies were returned to the related committee for further investigation.

Majlis had approved credentials of 114 deputies Tuesday, bringing the number of endorsed credentials to 189, and to 19 the number of those back to the related committee.

The permanent board of chairmans of the Majlis will be elected in a session to be held next Tuesday morning.

Among the deputies whose credentials were sent back to the committee are Fakhroddin Hejazi, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and Mohammad Reza Bahonar from Tehran constituency.

Tehran Police Arrest Leading Dissidents
AU0306081188 Paris AFP in English 0357 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Elahe Merel report]

[Text] Paris, June 3 (AFP)—Iranian police arrested a dozen leading dissidents this week, but failed to trap their main target, the author of an open letter lambasting Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni over his handling of the Gulf war, Iranian sources here said.

The letter writer, former premier Mehdi Bazargan, had blamed the ayatollah for failing to take up opportunities to end the eight-year-old Iran-Iraq war, and accused him of being the driving force behind the conflict.

Police unsuccessfully raided Mr. Bazargan's home in Tehran and the home of his former interior and justice minister Ahmad Sadr Javadi late Wednesday, sources here said.

But leading members of Mr. Bazargan's opposition Freedom Movement and the affiliated Association for the Defence of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation (ADFSIN) were arrested.

They included former interior minister Hashem Sabaghian, the former mayor of Tehran, Mohammad Tavassoli, former finance minister 'Ali Ardalan and former deputy prime minister Hoseyn Shah Hoseyni.

In his letter, received in Paris, Mr. Bazargan told the ayatollah: "Today, now that we have suffered setbacks and the world has turned its back on us, you persist in continuing the war, which will lead us to destruction."

In a parallel move ADFSIN leaders asked the Iranian people to sign a petition calling on the government to "accept a ceasefire and... open negotiations to realise the legitimate rights of the people, while maintaining positions at the front."

Iranian sources here said police had either arrested or were looking for the 30 or 40 members of the ADFSIN's executive committee. They raided homes in Tehran and in provincial cities, notably Zanjan and Tabriz in the north-west.

Recent reverses on the war front have exacerbated splits in the Iranian Government, observers said, adding that the climate in Iran was tense.

On May 25 Iraqi troops captured the Shalamcheh border region, near the southern Iraqi port city of Basra, which Iran had held since March 1987, and in April Iraq recaptured its Al-Faw Peninsula, taken by Iran in February 1986 in a battle which claimed 100,000 lives on both sides.

Iran's Education Minister Seyyid Qassam Akrami on Tuesday urged teachers and students to join a special contingent of volunteers to be crash-trained for deployment on Sunday.

The day before the Shalamcheh defeat Iranian leaders had cancelled a demonstration in Tehran in support of the ayatollah, saying that the war must be given top priority, according to the daily KEYHAN (The Universe).

Iran's radicals, led by the ayatollah's son Ahmad Khomeyni, won a mandate in parliamentary elections last month for their fight-to-the-death stance, and have accused moderates of defeatism.

Clashes between radicals and moderates in Isfahan, Mashhad, Qom and Tabriz have killed several people over the past few weeks, according to witnesses who have since left Iran.

Meanwhile in Baghdad, Mas'ud Rajavi, the leader of the exiled Iranian dissident Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, criticised the appointment Thursday of the Iranian parliament speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as acting commander-in-chief of Iran's army.

"By concentrating all legislative and executive powers in the war under Hashemi-Rafsanjani's control, the Khomeini regime enters an explosive and self-destructive phase," he said.

Mr. Rajavi also said Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's nomination to Iran's second highest military post "invalidates previous reports describing him as a moderate."

Bazargan Denounces Khomeyni

LD0306144288 Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Jun 88 p 3

[Jean Gueyras report: "Mr Bazargan Condemns 'Despotism' of Regime and Calls for End to War With Iraq"]

[Text] In an open letter addressed to Imam Khomeyni, Mehdi Bazargan, leader of the Iranian Liberation Movement, the only legal opposition movement in Tehran, has launched a strong indictment of the policy of "war at any cost" followed by the Revolution Guide and accuses him of creating a "despotic" regime in the country "worthy of the pharaohs."

The letter, of which thousands of copies were distributed in Tehran and the main Iranian cities in the last week of May, prompted a strong reaction from the authorities who made numerous arrests among close friends of Mr Bazargan's movement. The 31 members of the Movement for the Restoration of the Iranian People's Sovereignty and Freedom, formed 2 years ago by the leaders of the former National Front who backed Mr Bazargan's criticisms, were arrested. On Thursday evening, the Iranian Liberation Movement's headquarters in Tehran were occupied by the forces of law and order who assaulted everyone found on the premises and made numerous arrests. They were apparently looking for Mr Bazargan who had not returned home.

According to initial reports from Tehran, the number of people arrested in the Iranian capital, in Tabriz, in Esfahan, and in other provincial cities totals several dozen. They include 'Ali Ardalan, who was minister of the economy and finances in the Islamic Republic's first government; Hoseyn Shah Hoseyn, who was chairman of the welcoming committee which greeted Imam Khomeyni when he returned to Iran; Mr Tavassoli, former mayor of Tehran in the first few years of the revolution; Hashem Sabaghian, former interior minister; and Ahmad Sadr Javadi, former minister of justice and the interior.

In his open letter, peppered with numerous verses from the Koran, Mr Bazargan states that none of the objectives and slogans of the war obstinately waged by the imam has been achieved and that President Saddam Husayn's regime is still standing. "Exactly the opposite has happened," he adds. "Following the Iranian victory at Khorramshahr in May 1982, the Iraqi Army was in a state of collapse and Saddam Husayn and his protectors were ready to pay the price of their defeat, but the situation has now changed completely. You failed to take the opportunity and incited the Iraqis to further attacks on our country. In addition, you have called for the war to be continued until Israel is destroyed, but you have reached a policy of compromise and collaboration with Israel." (An obvious reference to the "Irangate" affair and to the numerous arms deals concluded with Jerusalem.)

Mr Bazargan accuses Imam Khomeyni of having lost all his bets and of making political analyses "which proved incorrect." "You condemned U.S. policy and the United States is now firmly established on our doorstep, in the Persian Gulf. You spoke of Iraq's bankruptcy and the collapse of its regime but, as a result of your misguided policy, Iraq has grown stronger, its economy has not collapsed, and it is we who are on the brink of bankruptcy. Since 1986, you have constantly proclaimed the year of victory and you are now calling on the population to stand firm until victory is achieved. Is this not an admission of failure on your part?"

"A Source of Shame Not Honor"

For the first time Mr Bazargan, who had attacked the Khomeyni regime many times in the past, although not so strongly, condemns the aid given to terrorist groups "like Islamic Jihad" which, he says, "has filled the whole world with hatred for our country through its terrorist actions. You have thus isolated the Islamic Republic, and the young people who carried out our revolution are now traumatized, repressed, and desperate. In fact, in the past 7 years, Iran and Islam have become synonymous with hatred and bitterness in the world. This is a source of shame, not honor."

"The whole of mankind hates your regime," Mr Bazargan continues, and he asks whether the time has come to stop and think and "turn to God," to admit that "a mistake has been made," and "stop leading the country toward destruction and death. You say that you have a responsibility in view of the blood which has already been shed. I say: When will you stop trading in the blood of our martyrs?" In conclusion, Mr Bazargan exhorts the imam to end the war and, with this in mind, to "consult the people primarily concerned," namely the Iranians.

The violence of Mr Bazargan's indictment can be explained partly by the strong feelings aroused in the country by the recent military defeats on the front. A big demonstration of "allegiance to the imam," which was due to be held immediately after the second round of the elections on 13 May, was called off because the organizers felt that the people were not sufficiently enthusiastic. What is even more serious, according to various sources which agree, the authorities are having increasing difficulty in persuading volunteers to go to the front.

Musavi Comments on Saudi Hajj Plans

LD0206122488 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 2 Jun 88

["Saudi's Restriction on Pilgrims' Number Further Defames Itself"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Prime Minister Husayn Musavi said here Thursday that the Saudi Government's measure in restricting the number of Muslims to attend the hajj Muslims to attend the hajj rituals in holy Mecca this year will further defame the Saudi regime.

Speaking after a session of Political Council of the government, he added that the Saudi massacre of pilgrims during last year's hajj ceremonies has created fear among the Saudi rulers to a point that they are fearful of each single one of the pilgrims.

The Saudis have taken the measure to whitewash consequences of their last July crime, for they are aware of detrimental effects of the action in the long run.

Identification of each and every one of Muslims to attend the hajj rituals to prevent the pilgrimage of those who seem to have the least devotion to the pure Mohammadan (SAW) Islam, can only be expected from a very fearful regime (Saudi), noted Musavi. This measure will itself bring further disgrace to this government, and it will be more effective than any propaganda campaign that Iran may have launched in this respect, he added. Through this measure the Muslims will become aware of what really happened in holy Mecca last June, he said.

Further Reportage on Velayati's UN Address
LD0206142488 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] New York, June 2, IRNA—Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati Wednesday condemned the United Nations for its failure to condemn the Baghdad regime's extensive use of chemical weapons in its 7 1/2 year old war against Iran.

Velayati also criticized the international body for its indifference and "irresponsible attitude" towards U.S. gunboat policy in the Persian Gulf. The Iranian foreign minister made the remarks in his address to a General Assembly on disarmament here Wednesday. Excerpts from his speech follow:

Prevailing global circumstances have given new definition to the concepts of international peace and security which go beyond the absence of war. It means prevention and resolution of international conflicts based on justice and equity. To reach this objective, it is necessary to embark on an endeavor to establish and strengthen peaceful relations among nations based on equality and through cooperation. In other words the means of limitation and reduction of weapons and enhancement of political, economic and cultural cooperation should be directed towards augmenting international peace and security... Afflicted with the policies of the two superpowers, who have based the security of their military alliances on nuclear weapons, international security has become rather fragile and unstable.

If the present trend continues, the development of new means of mass destruction by the superpowers will certainly lead to a more complex situation. Seeking military superiority by trying to gain security at the cost of depriving others of the same is the root cause of the arms race at the global level. This precludes the possibility of any stable international political relations. Therefore, agreement among the superpowers for substantial reduction of nuclcear and conventional weapons is the prerequisite for the establishment of mutual security instead of the present horror of mutual assured destruction. Such a general understanding would reduce the current global reliance on armament, and would enable the United Nations to embark on a new endeavor to establish the collective security mechanism envisaged in the charter.

Undoubtedly, since the convening of the second special session on disarmament, we have witnessed many developments in the world. In the meantime, issues such as prevention of nuclear arms race, establishment of effective control and monitoring mechanisms for disarmament related agreements, prevention of arms race in outer space, reorganization of international arms trade in order to prevent the escalation of the arms race and also establishment of nuclear free zones are all important issues which merit discussion in this international forum. But, certainly the most important issue which merits serious international attention is proliferation of the use of chemical weapons by Iraq against the people of Iran and Iraq.

This is a horrible development which has increased the possiblity of future massive use of these deadly weapons even on a global scale. Since my country has been inflicted with the greatest suffering and damage from the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime in the current century, I feel obliged to dedicate most of my statement to this issue. We are convinced that this behavior by the Iraqi regime is not only a threat to our security and the security of the oppressed people and groups inside Iraq, but also a widening threat against international peace and security.

Resort to chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime which began as a sporadic tactic against the Iranian troops on 13 January 1981 continued and intensified in the subsequent years.

Regrettably, to date, we have not witnessed any effective measure in this regard. In the course of seven years of Iraqi persistent use of chemical weapons, the United Nations, following repeated requests from the Islamic Republic of Iran and after undue delays and procrastination only attempted to respond to our official complaints on five occasions. Even then, it merely dispatched technical teams to investigate the extent of the Iraqi crimes. And despite the reports of these teams, no constructive measure for the prevention of repeated use of punishment of Iraqi war criminals was adopted.

The failure of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, to take resolute and effective measures encouraged and emboldened Iraq to continue its crimes to the extent that it resorted in the summer of 1987 to chemical warfare against the innocent civilians inhabitants of a city.

This indifference and irresponsible attitude led to an even more devastating tragedy which occurred on 17 March 1988 in Halabjah, a Kurdish Iraqi city.

It became apparent in the course of events following this tragedy that despite constructive and positive efforts by some members of the Security Council, behind the scene meaneuvering by some members in this Council prevented the United Nations from discharging its obligations in the face of such a genocide, a tragedy which threatens to affect other parts of the world and spread the use of chemical weapons which have heretofore been considered anti-human weapons of mass destruction.

The tragedy of Halabjah clearly illustrated that there is a need for immediate measures on the international level for the prevention of these atrocities.

It is necessary to refer here to Security Council Resolution 612 of 9 May 1988. This resolution was the first of its kind adopted after several years of persistent Iraqi resort to chemical weapons. It was expected of the Security Council to take a serious position against repeated use of these deadly weapons by Iraq and to unequivocally condemn Iraq for its genocide in Halabjah despite manipulations by supporters of Iraq in the Council. However, regrettably, manipulating tactics from the same quarters who directed Iraq to initiate an act of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and those who have continuously provided Iraq with the necessary materials and know-how for the production of this satanic weapon, give the Iraqi regime the audacity to repeatedly use chemical weapons even after the adoption of Resolution 612, thereby completely disregarding even that resolution.

Considering the precedence and sensitivity of the issue as well as the persistence of Iraq in resorting to these weapons, and the public confessions by the highest officials of the Iraqi regime regarding purchase and use of chemical weapons, the Security Council must immediately condemn Iraq in the strongest and most unequivocal terms. It should also take effective, serious and immediate measures to prevent the sale of necessary materials and technology for the production of chemical weapons to Iraq, and to establish mechanisms to inspect chemical weapon-producing facilities in Iraq.

In our opinion, the establishment of permanent teams of experts in the region will have important deterrent results.

However, it ought to be borne in mind that the international community should not remain aloof and stand idle in the face of the task of prevention of chemical weapons, awaiting the adoption of comprehensive convention on the prohibition of production, development and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, conscious of the sensitivity of the issue and the immenent threat of inevitable spread of chemical weapons, proposes that this special session adopt measures for cases where a country is charged with resorting to chemical weapons and the investigation of United Nations experts conclusively establishes the use of such weapons by the said state.

Despite all these facts, Iraq has continued without shame its declared policy of resorting to chemical warfare in the imposed war, and in less than ten days after the adoption of the Resolution 612, deployed chemical weapons in several Iranian targets. Regrettably, Iraq's total disregard for the rules of international law and decisions of the United Nations have not motivated the United Nations to adopt any resolute and practical measures against these Iraqi war crimes.

This contradiction between political slogans and practical measures by the United Nations in the field of chemical disarmament is not justifiable. I hope that this session can find a practical response to this fundamental question.

Turning to naval disarmament, it should be mentioned that the presence of foreign naval forces in the vicinity of littoral states with the purpose of imposing pressure and humiliating these states has seriously jeopardized peace and security in these areas. The military forces of the United States and its allies, in clear violation of Paragraph 5 of Resolution 598 which they themselves had advocated, invaded the Persian Gulf and under the guise of maintaining the security of this international waterway caused its increasing instability. Within little less than a year since the dispatch of foreign forces to the Persian Gulf, there has been no single day without an incident and the overall number of attacked ships has increased two-fold.

Damages incurred by oil installations have imposed great monetary losses to the littoral states. Those who have found their short-sighted political gain in feeding the source of tension instead of striving for stability will have to bear complete responsibility for the consequences of their action. The American military forces, in order to increase their presence in the region and under the pretext of allegations of mining of the Persian Gulf by Iran, attacked Iranian oil platforms on 18 April 1988 which had no military capability. This occurred in violation of all international rules and regulations. Unfortunately the lack of effective action on the part of the United Nations gave them the audacity of continue their illegal policies and even attempt to revive their

gun-boat diplomacy. This is at a time when the American mining of international waters during World War II, and the judgement of the International Court of Justice against the United States for mining of international waters of Nicaragua illustrate that interventionist policies around the globe have become the cornerstone of American foreign policy.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that the Persian Gulf must not become the suprepower domination, international peace and security imperatives dictate that this region be free of superpower competition and free of foreign military presence. The world is dependent on this region for its energy needs and therefore any domination by a group or a country cannot be accepted. The security of the Persian Gulf is the sole responsibility of the littoral states and the Islamic Republic of Iran having the longest borders in these waters, more than any other country, is seedking peace and stability in this waterway. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the opinion that immediately after the termination of the Iraqi attacks on merchant ships, tankers and oil installations, security will return to the Persian Gulf. However, it is evident that tension generating policies of the United States and other big powers have become intertwined in this region, precluding any possibility for security in this vital waterway.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, hoping to guarantee the security of the Persian Gulf, responded positively to the eight-point plan of the secretary general. However, this plan which can indeed return security to the Persian Gulf was rejected by Iraq. In the same vein, on May 1986 [as received], we proposed a regional security arrangement based on the cooperation of all the littoral states of the Persian Gulf. And during the past year, we declared our readiness to participate in an international mine-sweeping operation which was rejected by proponents of tension in the region and particularly by Iraq, who is responsible for mining in the Persian Gulf.

The current situation in the Persian Gulf is volatile and explosive. The spread of tension has made the attainment of the goal of Indian Ocean as a zone of peace much more difficult. The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that this session will show a sense of responsibility in dealing seriously with future developments in the Persian Gulf, taking effective measures for naval disarmament.

Meets Mugabe, Vasiliov at UN

LD0206181888 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Washington, June 2, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently participating in the special U.N. session on disarmament, met with two heads of state, a vice president and a prime minister at the U.N. Headquarters Wednesday.

In his meeting with Zimbabwean president and head of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Robert Mugabe, Velayati discussed mutual cooperation in NAM, disarmament and use of chemical weapons.

It was also agreed that Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Witness Mangwende would pay a visit to Tehran for consultation on mutual Tehran-Harare cooperation in the forthcoming NAM session due to be held in Cyprus.

Cypriot President George Vasiliou was the other head of state with whom Velayati held talks and they discussed mutual economic relations and the coming visit to Tehran of Cypriot foreign minister. In the meeting, President Vasiliou, referring to the friendly relations between his country and the Islamic Republic, noted that Cyprus attaches great importance to its ties with Iran.

Later the Iranian foreign minister held a separate meeting with Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and discussed with him the outcome of the recently-concluded NAM session in Havana, the Namibian issue and withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola.

Velayati also met Sweden's Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson Wednesday and thanked him for his country's condemnation of the use of chemical weapons and admittance of some chemical victims to that country's hospitals.

The Swedish premier said in reply that his country has always condemned, and will continue to condemn war crimes.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Velayati held separate talks with his counterparts from Australia, Yugoslavia, China and Indonesia on mutual ties and the disarmament issue.

Shipping Talks With USSR, Bulgaria Open

LD0306035188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The managing director of the Ports and Shipping Organization has told our correspondent that the first meeting of the secondary committee on Iran-Bulgaria transportation cooperation opened in Tehran today and will continue until 9 June. The meeting is being held in line with the protocol signed in Sofia in the month of Aban of last year [ending 21 November 1987] by the two countries' ministers of roads and transport. The protocol outlined cooperation between Iran and Bulgaria in overland freight transportation by rail, air, and sea.

He added: The 17th meeting of the Iran-USSR Marine Transportation Committee is to be held in Tehran. Topics to be discussed there include the establishment of a joint shipping line in the Caspian Sea for cargo transportation between Bandar-e Anzali or Bandar Now Shahr and Baku, as well as the purchase of two 4,000-ton

cargo vessels by Iran to haul freight between those ports. The topics also include finding solutions to marine transportation problems such as the problem of freight unloading in the ports of the two countries.

He said: In accordance with the agreements between the two countries on cargo transportation between Baku and Bandar-e Anzali or Bandar Now Shahr, a shipping line is to be set up with four vessels, of which two will belong to Iran and the other two will belong to the Soviet Union.

The managing director of the Ports and Shipping Organization added: For this reason, separate teams, led respectively by the deputy to the Bulgarian minister of roads and transportation and the head of the fleet of the USSR Ministry of Maritime Fleet, arrived in Tehran today.

Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for Algeria
LD0106202288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati left for Algeria this morning at the head of a delegation to hold discussions with Algerian officials. The discussions will review regional issues and bilateral relations.

Embassy in Beirut Urges Prisoners' Release
LD0106071588 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT dd 1 Jun 88

[Text] Beirut, June 1, IRNA—Iranian Embassy here in a statement Tuesday expressed satisfaction with the ending of bloodshed between Amal Movement and Hizballah and appealed to both sides to release all those captured in the course of clashes.

The statement thanked all those who helped materialise the Syria-Iran formula and expressed hope that both groups will work to wipe out hostilities.

It also expressed hope that through unity among Muslim groups they campaign against enemies of Islam and the U.S. in particular and for the liberation of occupied Islamic territories.

Both groups were also urged to refrain from any action which may flare up tension.

Embassy in Athens on Attacks on Gulf Shipping
LD0206175488 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Athens, June 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Embassy in a statement to the Greek News Agency (ANA) here Thursday said if Iraqi attacks against merchant shipping in the Persian Gulf ceased, Iran guarantees "not a single merchant ship will be attacked in that region."

The statement said Iran opposes "violation of international law and attacks against merchant shipping and has repeatedly condemned attacks against residential areas, merchant shipping and passenger airliners by the Iraqi regime."

The statement was issued with regards to a recent appeal by the International Union of Tanker Owners (Intertanko) to the Iraqi regime urging it to stop attacking merchant ships in the Persian Gulf.

Over 150 Greek-owned vessels have been hit in the Persian Gulf since the outbreak of the tanker war started by Baghdad in 1981 in a bid to cripple Iran's economy.

UK House Speaker on Iraq's Use of Toxic Gas
LD0306034288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Majlis has announced: The speaker of the British House of Commons, in a letter addressed to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, condemned the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons in the mass killing of the people of Halabjah. The text of the letter from the speaker of the British House of Commons follows:

From the office of the speaker in the Palace of Westminister of the British House of Commons to the honorable speaker of the Majlis: I hereby reply to your letter dated 6 April about Iraq'a use of chemical weapons in Kurdistan. Britain is totally opposed to the use of chemical weapons, which explicitly violates the Geneva Agreement, Article No 1,925. The members of all British political parties jointly condemn the use of chemical weapons by Iraq in Halabjah and other villages in Kurdistan, and the British Government officially protested to the Iraqi ambassador on 29 March 1988.

The British Parliament welcomed the UN secretary general's decision to dispatch an investigative delegation to look into reports on the use of chemical weapons. These reports will be very closely studied.

Britain stopped the use of its own chemical weapons 30 years ago and, in the frontline of international activities in Geneva, has insisted on the pursuit of a world ban on chemical weapons. Britain has also accepted victims of chemical weapons attacks for medical treatment on several occasions for humanitarian reasons.

I have arranged for a copy of Your Eminence's letter and my reply to be made and to be put at the disposal of all members in the library of the House of Commons.

Tabriz, Sari Marches Support Dispatch of Convoys

LD0206132088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Thousands of commanders of district headquarters, bases, groups, and resistance mobilization cells all over Mazandaran Province and the cities of Tabriz, Qazvin, Zanjan, Ardabil, and Maragheh, today held marches in Sari and Tabriz in support of the dispatch of the third convoy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad to the battelfronts and also to demonstrate their allegiance to the imam of the ummah. We draw your attention to the reports of our correspondents on this subject from Sari and Tabriz:

On the eve of the dispatch of the third convoy of the troops of the holy Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and benedictions be upon him and his scion, on the anniversary of the 5 June uprising, to the war theaters of the country, 4,000 commanders of the district headquarters, bases, groups, and resistance mobilization cells all over Mazandaran Province this morning conducted marches in the roads and streets of Sari and held a large gathering under the slogan of resistance until victory. [passage omitted]

Thousands of commanders of the mobilization resistance bases of the 5th 'Ashura Corps, in a splendid gathering in Tabriz, declared the readiness of the mobilization forces of the Provinces of Azarbayjan-e Khavari and Zanjan to join the troops of the Holy Muhammad convoys which are to leave for the fronts on 5 June. [passage omitted]

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Mujahidin's Successes

LD0206140988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The General Staff of the IRGC has announced: The Iraqi mujahidin of the 9th Badr Division, affiliated with the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, having gained the blessing of Almighty God, carried out a valiant operation near Darband-i Khan in Iraq. Launching an attack against enemy positions on Darband-i Khan heights, they succeeded in capturing five Iraqi bases.

The army of monotheism destroyed a special forces' company and four companies of the 3d Battalion of the Iraqi 72d Special Forces Brigade and succeeded in killing and injuring 250 of the Iraqi mercenaries, capturing 15 others, including an officer and a number of NCO's.

In the course of the same operation, the enemy's futile efforts to recapture the liberated regions were completely repulsed with intense artillery and antitank fire by the Iraqi mujahidin of the 9th Badr Division. The enemy was forced to retreat suffering losses of tanks, APC's, and vehicles, as well as the loss of a considerable quantity of weaponry and ammunition which were left behind. Furthermore, the fighters of the forces of the lord of the martyrs, southern Iraq branch, launched a surprise attack and halted the advance of a company, made up of intelligence mercenaries of the Iraqi regime and of Iraqi servicemen who had joined the Muslim revolutionaries. They killed a number of the Iraqi mercenaries including (Juma' Jasim) of the enemy intelligence elements, and injured others forcing the enemy forces to retreat.

Communique No 3,221

LD0206161088 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Iranian naval forces supported by Air Force fighters on their routine patrol missions in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman checked movement of an Iraqi vessel in Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and around Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms Wednesday.

Reporting the above here today, the 3221st Joint Staff communique said, on the battlefields Iranian combatants continued to consolidate their positions and brought enemy strongholds and engineering activities under their artillery fire, inflicting some casualties and losses on the Iraqi troops.

Movement of Iraqi armoured units in Halaleh and Sumar operational region, western fronts, were suppressed by the Muslim forces who also killed and wounded a group of Iraqi soldiers.

Heavy artillery fire of the Iranian Gendarmerie forces inflicted some casualties and losses on the enemy troops in parts of the southwestern and southern fronts Wednesday the communique concluded.

Kurds Burn 2 Iraqi Bases

LD0206203788 Tehran IRNA in English 1216 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollah set afire two government military bases in Mina and Zaekina [names as received] villages of Irbil Province last week, killing or wounding scores of Iraqi troops.

According to Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) irregulars today, the Hezbollah forces also seized intact considerable amount of weaponry and munitions in the course of the blitz.

Pakistan

Afghan Envoy Summoned Over Chaman Sector Attack

BK0306023588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] The Kabul administration's forces fired eight tank shells in two areas of Chaman sector in Baluchistan last Sunday [29 May], killing two Afghan refugees and injuring two other people. In this connection, a strong protest was lodged with the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad.

Memorandum Signed With French Satellite Agency

BK0206112988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The satellite ground station of the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission [SUPARCO] being set up in Islamabad will directly receive remote-sensing image data from a French satellite for research purposes. The data will be utilized by SUPARCO and 60 other user agencies in Pakistan.

A memorandum of understanding to this effect was signed in Karachi today between the chairman of SUPARCO and the president of the French satellite agency, the Spot Image.

With the commissioning of the station before the end of this year, Pakistan will be able to efficiently and directly receive earth and atmospheric data which will be used for geological survey, the location of precious mineral deposits, crop condition, prevention of floods and other fields of national development.

Sri Lanka

UNP Takes Control of 6 Provincial Councils

BK0306092288 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0801 GMT 3 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 June (LANKA PUWATH)—The UNP took effective control of the Western and Central councils in yesterday's poll in the two provinces in the second round of the PC [Provincial Council] elections.

With yesterday's (?counting) UNP has taken control of six of the provincial councils, to which elections have so far been held. Four elections were held in late April.

In the Central Province, where 56 seats were at stake, the UNP held a commanding lead, taking 35 of them. The United Socialist Alliance [USA] trailed with 18 and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress [SLMC] with 3 seats.

In the Nuwara Eliya District, the UNP swept the poll more than twice the number of seats won by its rival, the USA. The UNP, which was supported by the CWC [Ceylon Workers Congress] cornered 12 seats with the USA winning only 5.

In the Kandy District of the Central Province, the UNP won 17 seats, the USA 9, and the SLMC 2.

In the Matale District, the contest was keener. The UNP [words indistinct] won six seats, the USA four and the SLMC one.

In the Western Province, where 102 seats were at stake, the UNP won 52, the USA came second with 42, the SLMC third with six and the newly formed Liberal Party gained two.

The UNP thus has a majority of two over the combined opposition in the [words indistinct] Provincial Council.

It was the strong backing for the UNP in the Colombo District that gave the ruling UNP party control of this provincial council.

In the Colombo District, where 43 seats were to be filled, the UNP won 23 against the 20 of the combined opposition.

In the Gampaha District, which comes under the Western Province, where 36 seats were available the UNP secured half, while the USA got 15, the Liberal Party two, and the SLMC, one.

In the Kalutara District, which is the third area forming the Western Province, the UNP was beaten into second place by the combined opposition. The UNP won 11 of the 23 seats, while the USA was nosed out of first place with 10 seats and the SLMC winning two.

The Liberal Party, which was expecting to make some showing in the Colombo District fared poorly.

AFP Notes 'Irregularities'

BK0306053388 Hong Kong AFP in English 0524 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Colombo, June 3 (AFP)—The ruling United National Party (UNP) won control of councils in two provinces which voted Thursday, officials said, as the opposition protested against alleged irregularities in the poll.

The UNP won 52 seats in the 102-member Western Province and 35 in the 56-seat Central Province, election officials announced Friday.

Sri Lanka Communist Party leader Peiter Keuneman said someone had impersonated him and that five of his polling agents had been beaten up by government supporters during the balloting.

"This is a very serious matter. There had been large scale impersonations. We have lodged a protest," Mr. Keuneman said.

His Communist Party is a member of the leftist United Socialist Alliance which formed the main opposition in the two councils. It gained 42 seats in the Western Province and 18 in the other.

The minor Moslem Congress and the Liberal Party won a total of 11 seats in the two provincial councils.

Liberal Party leader Chanaka Amaratunga said one of their agents was driven out of a polling station in the capital by UNP supporters. He said he had complained to the police about "serious electoral malpractices." UNP nor election officials were immediately available for comment.

The elections were marred by violence by an anti-government militant group and at least three people, including a policeman, were killed, police said.

They said activists of the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) fought a gunbattle with police in a western village Thursday killing a policeman. Troops clashed with JVP saboteurs in Central Province killing two militants.

Elections for councils in four of the country's nine provinces were held two months ago and the UNP won control of them too. The provincial councils—which will have more autonomy than existing urban councils—are being set up in line with the peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

7 LTTE Members, 2 Indian Soldiers Killed

BK0306104388 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0934 GMT 3 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, 3 June (LANKA PUWATH)—Seven LTTE terrorists and two soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force were killed in northern and eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. They said that in addition, two LTTE cadres committed suicide by swallowing cyanide capsules after being apprehended.

As the IPKF operations at Alampil against the LTTE continued to the tenth day yesterday [word indistinct] more terrorists were reported killed by IPKF. One AK-47 rifle, one [word indistinct] carbine gun, 5 magazines, one hand grenade, 199 rounds of ammunition, and one motorcycle were seized.

A total of 38 terrorists have now been killed in one of the IPKF's biggest operations, on the 15-kilometre (?stretch) of land, about ten miles south of the north eastern fishing centre of Mullaittivu. [passage omitted]

16,500 Returning Refugees Resettled in North

BK0306090088 Colombo LANKA PWVATH in English 0823 GMT 3 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 June (LANKA PUWATH)—Nearly 16,500 displaced persons who returned recently from Tamil Nadu have been resettled in the Mannar, Jaffna and Trincomalee areas. Senior Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Rehabilitation Tilak Chandrasekera told LANKA PUWATH that there are 700 displaced persons living in transit camps at Talaimannar awaiting resettlement.

He said a further 10,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, now in Tamil Nadu, are from Sri Lanka's Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Kilinochchi and Puttalam Districts.

Meanwhile, another batch of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees comprising 701 persons will be arriving at the north western Sri Lankan port of Talaimannar from Tamil Nadu tomorrow, Mr Chandrasekera said.

Twenty-eight thousand two hundred and sixty-eight Sri Lankan Tamil refugees returned to Sri Lanka after the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

Briefs

Export Performance Improves

The value of exports last year registered an increase of 21 percent in rupee terms. This is considered a significant improvement when compared to a decline of 6 percent recorded in the previous year. The increase in 1987 was mainly due to the high revenue earned from ind ustrial and mineral exports. While the value of industrial exports increased to a little over 20 billion rupees in 1987 from over 15 billion rupees in 1986, mineral exports rose from over 1 billion rupees to a little over 1,715 million rupees. Tea export earnings also recorded an increase of 15 percent last year. The earnings from minor agricultural products registered an upward trend of 14 percent. However, export earnings from all coconut products decreased last year. There was another shortfall in the volume of agricultural commodities that were exported during last year. [Text] [*BK0106112188 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jun 88*]